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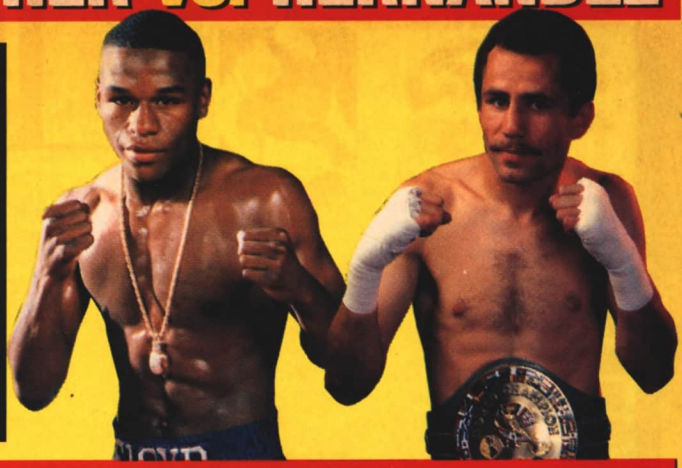

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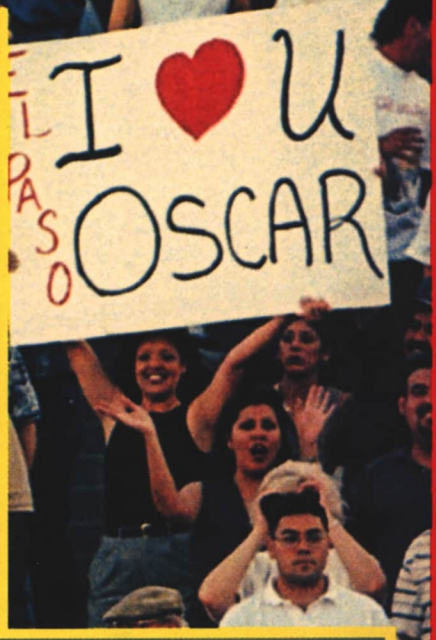

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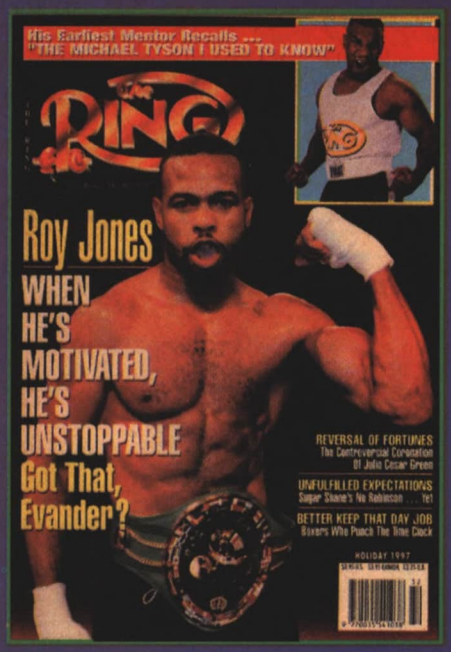

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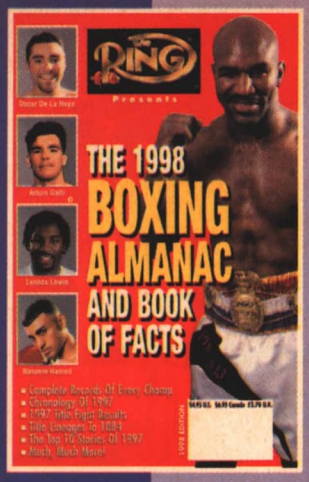

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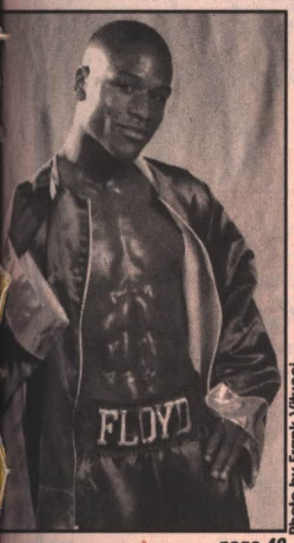

Photo by Frank Vitucci

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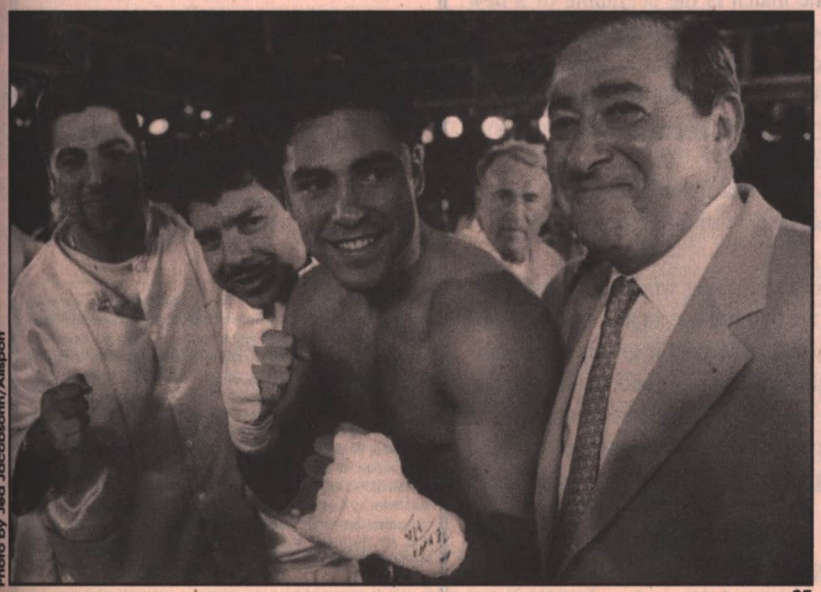

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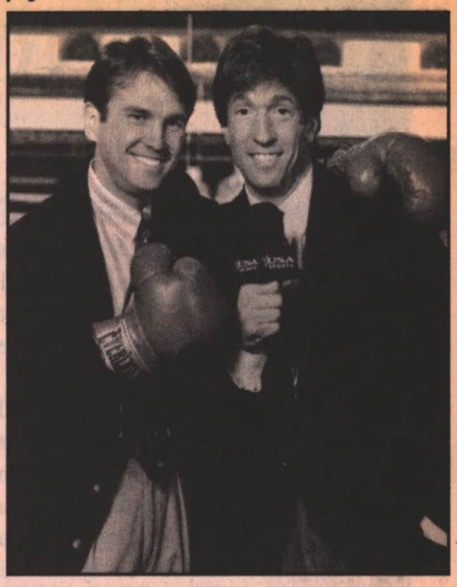

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RINGSIDE

I couldn't help wonder what was going through Roy Jones' mind as he looked out at the sea of people, over 45,000 strong, at the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, who had come to see Oscar De La Hoya decimate Patrick Charpentier. Jones and De La Hoya will probably never meet in the ring (Jones weighed 176½ for his last fight; De La Hoya 147), but they are, nonetheless, locked in a fierce rivalry for boxing's pound-for-pound title.

Although the massive crowd at the Sun Bowl and the 12.0 rating HBO got for the telecast (the cable network's highest of the year for boxing) make is clear that "The Golden Boy" is way out in front in terms of popularity, it looks like Jones is launching a strong bid to recapture the mythical but much coveted crown.

THE RING elevated De La Hoya to the number-one position in its pound-for-pound ratings and dropped Jones to number two after the latter was disqualified in his first bout with Montell Griffin, and De La Hoya outpointed Pernell Whitaker. Another factor involved was Jones' lackluster performances against woefully unqualified Eric Lucas and washed-up Mike McCallum, which were particularly damaging when De La Hoya was fighting the likes Julio Cesar Chavez, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Hector Camacho, and Wilfredo Rivera. But there's no denying that Jones is an awesome talent, and when he's in the mood, just as breathtaking a fighter as De La Hoya.

Jones' one-punch bodyshot kayo of Virgil Hill was just the sort of showing we needed to remind us how special a talent he is. I know that Hill isn't what he used to be, but, going in, the two-time former light heavyweight champion had lost only twice in 45 pro bouts, was 22-2 in title bouts, and had never been stopped previously. Moreover, by the time you read this, there's an excellent chance that Jones will have added the WBA light heavyweight belt to the WBC version he already owns. At press time, Jones was scheduled to meet Lou Del Valle in a unification bout on July 18 at Madison Square Garden, and although Del Valle is a pretty good fighter in his own right, his chance of upsetting Jones is slimmer than Kate Moss' waist.

Jones told me in a recent interview that before he signed a new contract with HBO, he worked out all the problems that were causing conflict between him and the cable network he fights for. Hopefully, the Del Valle match is the beginning of a new schedule for Jones, one in which he fights far more frequently and against a far better caliber of opposition. And if Jones can start delivering devastating performances against top-flight opponents on a consistent basis—and De La Hoya continues to fight fodder like Charpentier—another adjustment at the top of the pound-for-pound rankings is well within the bounds of possibility.

Boxing needs all the superstars it can get, and now that Jones is starting to behave like one again, the day may eventually come when he too can fill a football stadium.

***

There are so many bad stories in boxing, it's refreshing when the opportunity comes along to talk about the good stuff. There are two features in this month's issue that reinforce the notion that not everybody involved in the sport is greedy and/or corrupt. "Planning Past The Next Punch: The Rough Riders Try To Smooth Out Boxers' Future" *(page 26)* and "Not Just Another Joe: This Gans Was More Than A Great Fighter" *(page 44)* tell the uplifting stories of people who understand that there are more important things than winning or losing, and have gone out of their way to help fighters with their lives beyond the ring.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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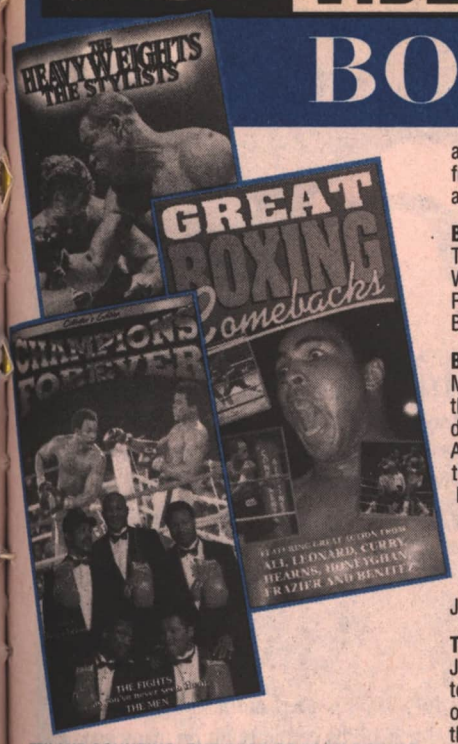

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COME OUT WRITING

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FERNANDO-MANIA

I have been watching boxing for about 15 years, and I have seen many young fighters. I'd have to say Fernando Vargas is one of the best that I have ever seen. Oscar De La Hoya was a great amateur, but Vargas has better skills than De La Hoya did at the same age. All of the magazines want to talk about David Reid, but Vargas will beat Reid as a pro, mark my words. Vargas has all of the moves of a veteran pro fighter, and he is only 20 years old. By the year 2000, Vargas will be in the top 10 of your pound-for-pound list. A warning for De La Hoya and Reid: Watch out for Vargas.

DOUG MARTIN
Denver, CO

MORE USA OUTRAGE

I enjoyed Nigel Collins' "Ringside" column in the July 1998 issue. I am also outraged at USA Network's decision to cancel the *Tuesday Night Fights*. Mr. Collins certainly hit on many good reasons for the importance of this program, but I would like to add another reason to his: the ridiculous cost of so many pay-per-view fights. Even the added cost of HBO or Showtime is an expense that many in the *TNF* audience cannot meet. As a result, a void would have existed without another outlet. USA has filled this void for so many people over the years with this great program, and it's a crime that it is being killed. I can't begin to tell you all of the great, free bouts that *TNF* brought into my home.

In closing, let me say that I immediately dispatched a letter to USA denouncing this decision, and I strongly urge all boxing fans to do the same. I would also like to suggest that we might take this protest a step further. How about a boycott of any company that buys time on the replacement shows? Perhaps we might even persuade Budweiser, one of the present sponsors of *TNF*, to lend their considerable clout in keeping the program on the air.

G. ALVIN SIMONS
Perry, FL

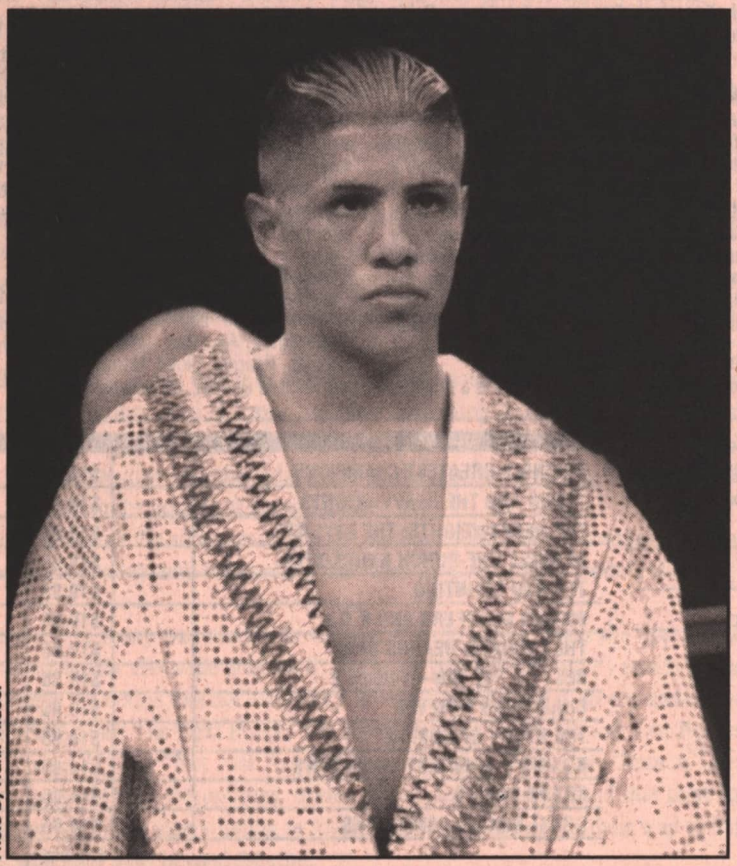
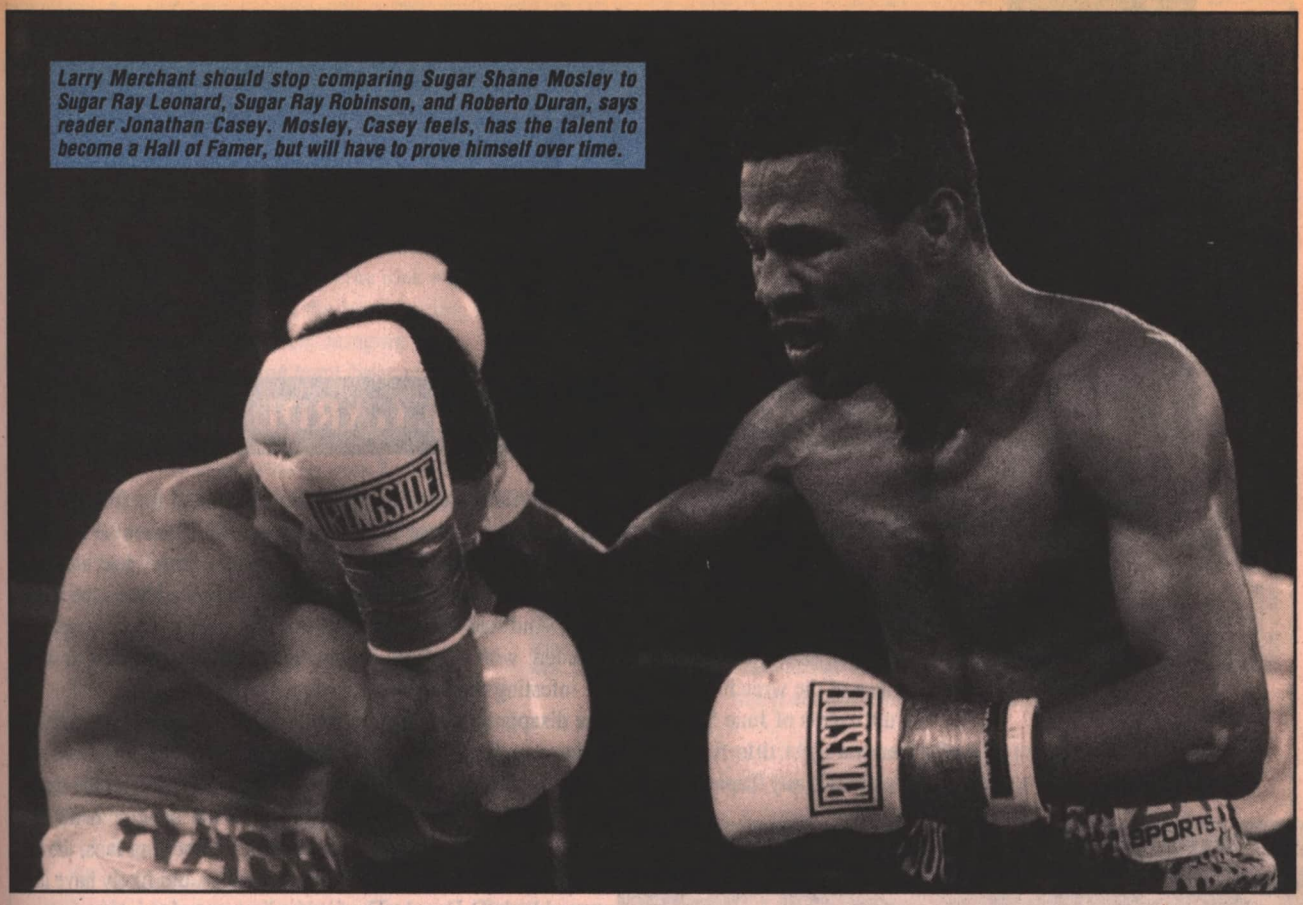


Photo by Frank Vilucci

Junior middleweight Fernando Vargas may be the best young boxer out there today, according to reader Doug Martin. By the year 2000, Martin predicts, Vargas will be among the top 10 pound-for-pound fighters in the world.

SUPER CRUISE TICKET

I would like to remark on a statement I heard made by one of ESPN's ringside commentators during the broadcast of the May 22 fight between Adolpho Washington and Orlin Norris. I can't remember whether it was Bob Papa or Al



Larry Merchant should stop comparing Sugar Shane Mosley to Sugar Ray Leonard, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Roberto Duran, says reader Jonathan Casey. Mosley, Casey feels, has the talent to become a Hall of Famer, but will have to prove himself over time.

Bernstein who said it, but one of them criticized the creation of a super cruiserweight division, the weight class in which Washington and Norris happened to be fighting.

I do agree with their view that there are too many divisions now, especially with all of the alphabet organizations claiming champions. But, due to the wide range of weight differences in the heavyweight division, I feel a super cruiserweight division needs to be added between heavyweight and cruiserweight. The cruiserweight limit is 190 pounds, and it is difficult for most fighters weighing in at around 200 pounds to compete with 250-pounders. It seems especially unfair when there is a weight difference of only three pounds between flyweight and junior bantamweight.

If you still say there are too many weight divisions, then just knock out a few of the junior divisions such as junior featherweight or junior lightweight. Then add the new super cruiserweight division, because it will promise some great matchups.

PATRICK G. SCALLON
Ackley, IA

SUGAR-COATED SHANE

I will be the first to say that Shane Mosley is one of the best and most exciting young fighters in the world today. As a fan, I am looking forward to his possible Hall of Fame career. That said, I have just heard Larry Merchant make further comparisons with Mosley to Sugar Ray Leonard, Sugar Ray Robinson, and now Roberto Duran. These three men earned their place in the sport's history by beating great fighters. Leonard fought men like Tommy Hearns and Marvin Hagler. Robinson had Jake LaMotta and Gene Fullmer, among others. Both Duran and Robinson fought over 100 times, winning nearly every time out. All three won titles in a number of weight classes. These factors solidified their places as three of history's greatest fighters, and in the case of Robinson, probably the greatest.

These are also the factors that separate these men from Mosley, who may have the skill level to attain the heights of accomplishment they did, but because he's still in the early stages of his career, hasn't.

JONATHAN CASEY
Riverside, CA

NORTON REMEMBERED

I am writing this letter in response to "The Ring Update" in your June 1998 issue on former WBC heavyweight champion Ken Norton. I believe Norton, the man who broke Ali's jaw, was a special athlete for his time. For someone who started boxing as late as Norton did, he had to be. In my opinion, the bout he had with Larry Holmes in June 1978 was truly one of the greatest fights of all-time. I was only nine years old when the fight took place, but it still stands out so clearly in my mind, it's as if it happened last week. I believe the fight took a lot out of him mentally and physically, and that he was never the same afterward. It went 15 grueling rounds, with Holmes winning by a slim margin. Norton, I believe, should have gotten the decision, and if he had, it probably would have extended his career much longer.

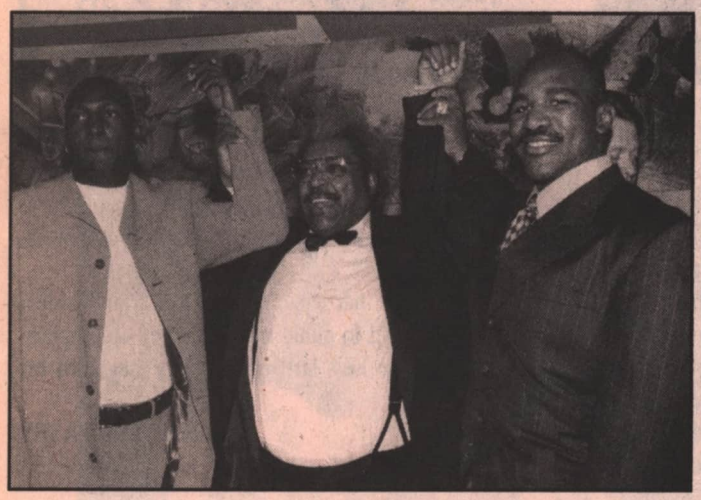
JOHN KEZAR
Lindsay, Quebec ■

ROUND ONE

SIFTING THROUGH THE GARDEN RUBBLE

The similarities between the Evander Holyfield-Henry Akinwande debacle and the film *Godzilla* are striking. The monster and the fight both invaded New York City unwanted. The movie's slogan, "Size matters," was also used on fight posters to make it seem like "Huggin' Henry" had a chance. Both productions proved that all the hype in the world can't make the public buy a lemon, be it 6'7" or the size of the Empire State Building. And had the fight gone on, the ending might have been exactly the same as how the film concluded: with Madison Square Garden being bombed to avoid any chance of the wretch trapped inside infesting the city again.

As the events of June 5 unfolded, the disappointment that normally accompanies the cancellation of a heavyweight title fight was nowhere to be found. Sure, Holyfield was upset, and so was Akinwande. Johnny Tapia, Lou Del Valle, and the other fighters scheduled to appear on the undercard also didn't look too happy about the developments. But for the promoters, Garden executives, and boxing fans, the disaster was small scale compared to what would likely have happened had "D-Day At The Garden" come a day later.



Akinwande, King, and Holyfield all wasted their time

Only 4,000 tickets had been sold by the day before the fight, meaning the Garden was expecting to lose between $1-million and $2-million. Instead, with the fight called off, the arena only lost about $100,000 in promotional expenses. Showtime and Don King had guaranteed Holyfield $10-million and Akinwande $2.5-million (not to mention what the undercard fighters were set to make), and it was estimated that they would need at least 500,000 pay-per-view buys to cover costs. Showtime executive Jay Larkin said they were on track for 350,000 to 450,000 orders. The bottom line: The fighters would have been the only ones making money on this venture.

Skeptics who theorized that Akinwande didn't actually have hepatitis B, and that this was simply a ploy by King to avoid financial disaster, would have trouble explaining all the other disasters that befell the show. Ray Mercer, expected to fight on the undercard, also tested positive for hepatitis. Maria Nieves-Garcia, who was scheduled to fight Christy Martin, was scratched earlier in the week when it was found she was 21 weeks pregnant. And Roberto Duran, slated to fight WBA middleweight champ William Joppy, was in danger of having his purse withheld because he was said to be three years behind on child support payments. All in all, from the signing of Holyfield-Akinwande to its demise, the event was boxing's biggest black eye since Holyfield-Tyson II.

But there is a silver lining for the game's true fans. Akinwande's bid will most likely be scrapped altogether, making the road a tad clearer for the much anticipated heavyweight unification bout between "The Real Deal" and WBC champ Lennox Lewis. Word broke in early-June that Lewis' proposed five-fight contract extension with HBO had been nixed by the network, freeing him to fight on Showtime once he takes care of his mandatory against Zeljko Mavrovic. Holyfield wants the WBC belt. Lewis obsesses about Holyfield. Networks and promoters are stepping aside. In the mind of the boxing optimist, not even Godzilla could stop it from happening.

—Eric Raskin

GALLOPING AND WALLOPING

Jeff True, director of marketing at the Los Alamitos Race Course, thinks he has stumbled upon a winning gimmick to promote the Orange County, California, track. With sagging attendance figures hitting not only Los Alamitos, but race tracks across the country, True took a shot at offering boxing to go with the horse racing, and the results have been very encouraging.

True and his marketing team came up with the idea to cater to a substantial Hispanic audience. They also believed boxing would introduce younger fans to horse racing, which, with a primarily aged fan base, is in an industry-wide slump. After one "Rumble At The Races" card, attendance figures climbed 33 percent. True was so impressed after a Saturday night sellout, he began mulling over the possibility of adding more ringside seats.

Photo courtesy Los Alamitos Race Course

Sport of Kings meets Sport of Swings

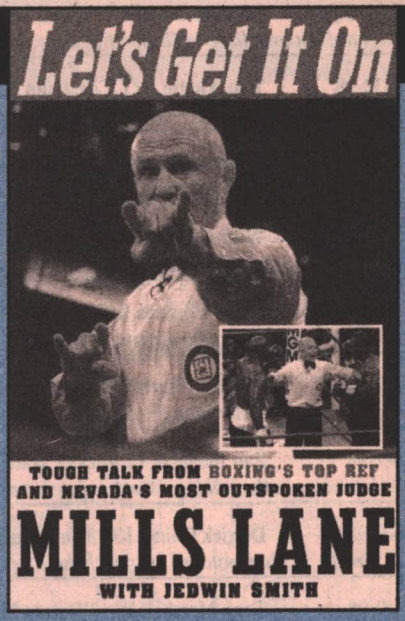
The fights being staged are four-rounders between young boxers making their professional debuts. Four fight nights were arranged this year at Los Alamitos, thanks to boxing promoter Roy Englebrecht. Each of the boxers draw a $450 paycheck for their work, and the fights take place between races.

"We're pleasantly surprised," True said. "The cost associated with it is not out of sight, and in terms of getting people to the race track, it's a worthwhile promotion. We're careful not to turn the place into a boxing venue. We run a race track and we're trying to get people interested in horse racing."

But at the same time, it wouldn't hurt boxing if a few racing fans warmed up to the Sweet Science.

—Joe Santoliquito

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



Mills Lane's life and times as boxing's most prominent referee are the subject of his thoroughly entertaining *Let's Get It On: Tough Talk From Boxing's Top Ref And Nevada's Most Outspoken Judge* (263 pages, Crown Publishing, $23 hard cover). The straight-forward approach of Lane manifests itself throughout the book, and reading it you can almost imagine the former Marine coming up to you and saying: "I'm Mills Lane and I'm going to kick your butt."

Lane uses terms like "hard facts," "bottom line," and "flesh merchants" frequently, and his depiction of the Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield II debacle is both insightful and revealing. Entering the fight, Lane respected Tyson, "a no-nonsense, streetwise man who didn't have to rely on anything but his courage, strength, and skill in the ring." Yet what occurred in that third round forever changed his opinion of "Iron Mike." After Tyson first chomped on one of Holyfield's ears, Lane saw the stark contrast in the two fighters. There was Tyson, trying to duck the truth and lie his way out, while the noble Holyfield stood there ready to fight.

If there is a general theme in Lane's book, it's that his love of the sport is what compels him to keep coming back. He repeatedly calls boxing a "discipline," a "pillar around which my entire life has been built." For an old, bald, short guy, as Lane calls himself, he is a true renaissance man. A former district attorney who went on to become a district court judge, Lane refers to promoters who lure the Iran Barkleys of the world back into the ring as "heartless bastards" driven by money, and covers everything from race relations in the United States to how he would have handled the O.J. Simpson trial, had he been the judge. Lane closes by naming the top 10 fights he's refereed, with his own acute fight analysis thrown in.

—Joe Santoliquito

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
5-16-98	Kenny Keene KO 11 Rocky Gannon	ESPN2	c	C	B+	B+
What was Gannon doing at cruiserweight? And what was Keene doing outboxing someone?						
5-16-98	Daniel Santos W 10 Fidel Avendano	PPV	w	B-	A-	B
Another notch on the belt for Santos; is he ready to make the move?						
5-16-98	Cesar Soto W 10 Jose Ayala	PPV	f	C+	B+	B-
A good scrap with Soto coming out on top						
5-16-98	**Erik Morales KO 2 Jose Luis Bueno**	**PPV**	**WBC jf**	**A**	**C+**	**A-**
Morales too big and powerful; one of the most picturesque knockouts you'll see						
5-16-98	**Genaro Hernandez W 12 Carlos Gerena**	**PPV**	**WBC jl**	**A**	**B-**	**B+**
Hernandez turns in typically classy performance; bring on Mayweather!						
5-19-98	Ray Berry W 10 Merqui Sosa	USA	lh	B-	A-	B
Veteran Sosa on wrong end of verdict; Berry gets lucky						
5-19-98	Wayne McCullough W 10 Juan Polo Perez	USA	f	A	B+	C+
"The Pocket Rocket" has a long way to go before he's ready for Erik Morales						
5-22-98	Bronco McKart W 12 Ron Weaver	ESPN	jm	C+	C+	C
Target practice for McKart; is David Reid next?						
5-24-98	Anthony Jones KO 8 Julian Jackson	ESPN2	jm	B+	A	B-
Second kayo loss in a row for Jackson; maybe now he'll stop						
5-29-98	Phil Jackson KO 2 Gerard Jones	FOXSN	h	D	C	C+
If everyone was as bad as Jones, Jackson would be the next Joe Louis						
5-30-98	Chris Byrd W 10 Eliecer Castillo	HBO	h	B+	C	C
Love him or hate him, Byrd is giving an awful lot of heavyweights nightmares						
5-30-98	Michael Grant KO 9 Obed Sullivan	HBO	h	A-	A	B+
It's hard not to believe in Grant after this; Sullivan came to fight						
5-30-98	**Tim Austin KO 3 Andrian Kaspari**	**Show**	**IBF b**	**B+**	**C**	**B-**
How was Kaspari number-one contender with just nine fights?						
5-30-98	**Laurent Boudouani W 12 Guillermo Jones**	**Show**	**WBA jm**	**B-**	**A**	**C+**
With any luck, we'll be selecting this travesty as the worst decision of the year						
5-30-98	Wilfredo Rivera W 10 Carlos Palomino	UNI	w	C-	C+	B-
If you were surprised to see Palomino last the distance, you're not alone						
5-30-98	Diego Corrales KO 2 Eddie Contreras	UNI	jl	B+	B	C
Hot shot Corrales rapidly nearing title shot						
6-7-98	Diobelys Hurtado KO 3 Leonardo Mas	ESPN2	w	B-	A-	B
Mas goes down faster than the Nikkei; what if Hurtado could punch?						
6-7-98	Zab Judah W 12 Mickey Ward	ESPN2	jw	B	A	C+
Judah a star in the making; Ward as passive as ever						
6-9-98	Derrick Gainer KO 5 Orlando Soto	USA	jl	B-	C+	B+
If "Smoke's" chin matched his punch, he'd be a world champion already						
6-9-98	Tony Marshall W 12 Darren Maciunski	USA	jm	C+	A-	D
Flat Marshall squeaks by in snoozer that could have easily gone the other way						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

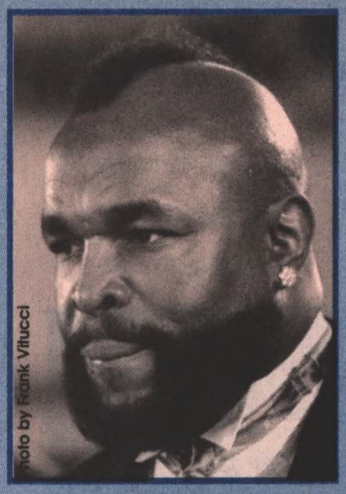
(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

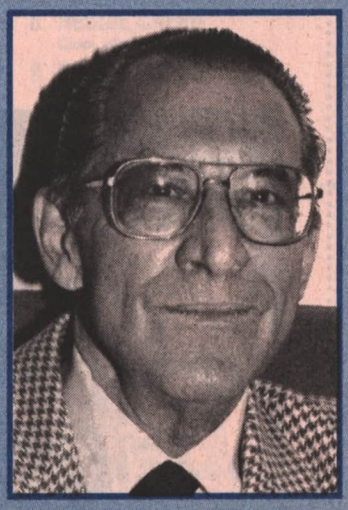
OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Former junior middleweight contender **Tony Ayala Jr.** was denied parole on May 21, meaning he will have to serve one more year of the sentence he received in 1983 for aggravated sexual assault. Plans were already being made for his return to the ring before the surprising decision was announced ... Trainer **Malik Muhammad**, 50, died on May 8 when he was hit by a drunk driver while out for his evening jog. Muhammad, who was training **Robert Allen** for a title shot against **Bernard Hopkins** at the time, is survived by his wife and four children ... **Mr. T**, known to boxing fans as the former bodyguard of **Muhammad Ali** and **Leon Spinks** and for his role in *Rocky III*, was revealed in May to be battling lymph cancer. The star of the hit 1980s series *The A-Team* also disclosed that he was broke ... **ESPN** purchased **Bill Cayton's** massive collection of fight films, and should get plenty of use out of them on their recently procured **Classic Sports Network**. ESPN paid approximately $100-million for the film collection ...



Mr. T: Fighting cancer

Speaking of Cayton, heavyweight contender **Michael Grant** filed a complaint on May 21 seeking a release from his contract with two of his three managers, Cayton and **Steve Lott**. Grant has been managed by the pair, along with **Craig Hamilton**, since he turned pro in 1994 ... **Pernell Whitaker**, who left drug rehab in April claiming he never had a problem, was charged with drunk driving in the early morning hours of June 4 in Virginia Beach. "Sweet Pea's" blood-alcohol level was reported to be 0.13, well over the legal limit of 0.08 ...



Cayton: Gives up film collection, maybe Grant, too

Former heavyweight champion **Riddick Bowe**, 30, pleaded guilty to a federal charge of interstate domestic violence. Bowe was charged with abducting his estranged wife, **Judy Bowe**, and the couple's five children from her suburban home in Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 25. Bowe, who threatened his wife with a knife, handcuffs, and pepper spray, is expected to be sentenced to 18-24 months in federal prison.

THE PUNCHLINES

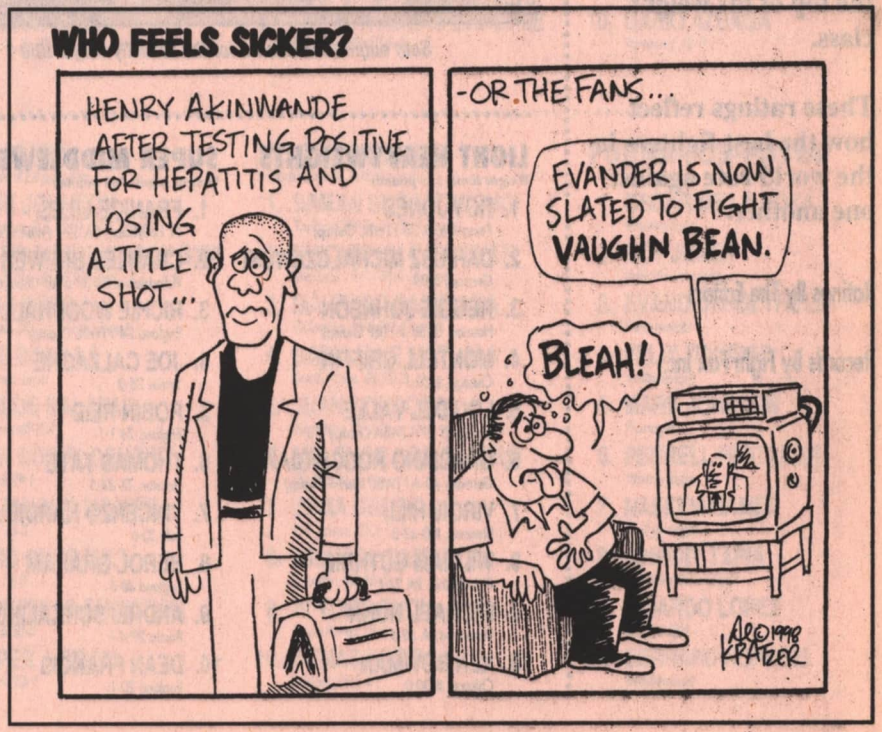
"I guess I'm the guy with the bad health, so they check me early. Oh, my heart might stop working. Gotta check me first."

—Evander Holyfield, wondering why his medical exams were done well in advance and Henry Akinwande's were saved for the week of the fight

"I feel a bit lucky, to tell you the truth."

—British junior featherweight Spencer Oliver after awaking from a coma following his near-tragic fight with Sergei Devakov

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended June 18, 1998

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

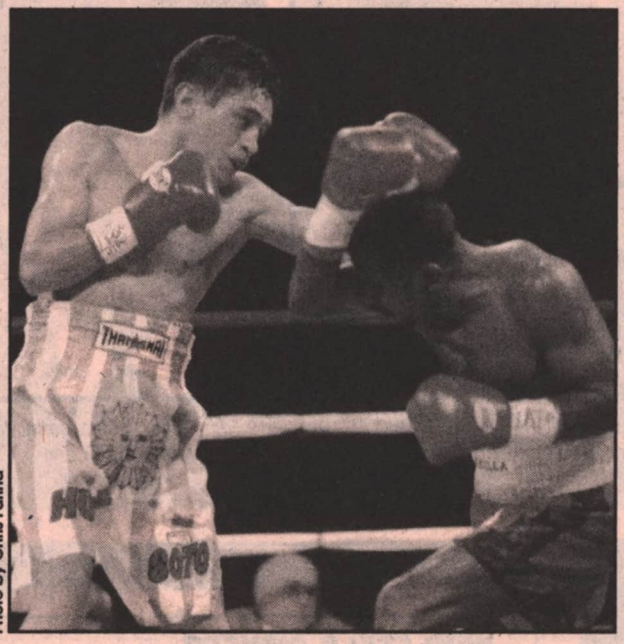


Photo by Chris Farina

Soto outpointed Bonilla for the WBA flyweight title

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *35-3 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *33-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Marshall, TX *76-5*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *39-2*
5. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *28-0*
6. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ *25-4-1*
7. **SHANNON BRIGGS** New York, NY *31-2*
8. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *25-0*
9. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *17-0*
10. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *30-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *18-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *22-2-1*
5. **CARL THOMPSON** England *23-4*
6. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *38-3-1*
7. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *30-5*
8. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *28-4-1*
9. **RALF ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-9-7*
10. **SAUL MONTANA** Mexico *31-6*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *36-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *38-0*
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *38-5-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *30-1*
5. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-4-1 (WBC Interim Champ)*
7. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-3*
8. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *24-1*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *52-4*
10. **KEN BOWMAN** Chicago, IL *30-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *32-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *31-5 (IBF Champ)*
3. **RICHIE WOODHALL** England *24-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *25-0*
5. **ROBIN REID** England *26-1-1*
6. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *34-5*
7. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *33-6*
8. **HEROL GRAHAM** England *48-6*
9. **ANDREI SCHKALIKOV** Russia *29-4-1*
10. **DEAN FRANCIS** England *20-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *34-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *25-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *25-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *31-1-1*
5. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *30-2*
6. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *31-0*
7. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *26-0-1*
8. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *22-3*
9. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA *20-2-1*
10. **RYAN RHODES** England *16-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France 37-2-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 71-2 (IBF Champ)
3. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY 16-4-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA 47-7
5. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina 60-3
6. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL 38-1
7. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX 28-1
8. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI 35-2
9. **TONY MARSHALL**
   Albany, NY 29-7-6
10. **EMMETT LINTON**
    Tacoma, WA 25-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA 28-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 33-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 41-2-1
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 34-0-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico 41-3-2
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 45-2-1
7. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 24-0
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico 28-3-1
9. **DIOBELYS HURTADO**
   Miami, FL 25-1
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia 21-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV 39-3 (IBF Champ)
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France 32-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 99-2-2
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 42-1-1
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 20-1-1
6. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA 51-3
7. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Palmdale, CA 39-6-1
8. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD 28-2
9. **BOLILLO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 48-3-1
10. **ZAB JUDAH**
    Brooklyn, NY 16-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 27-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France 51-7-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico 32-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 24-1
5. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan 26-1
6. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa 32-1
7. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 29-2
8. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT 28-2
9. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana 39-4-2
10. **ARTUR GRIGORIJAN**
    Uzbekistan 24-0

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA 38-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 24-2-1
3. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea 24-2-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA 30-0 (IBF Champ)
5. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY 61-5-1
6. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX 22-1
7. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 44-4
8. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan 33-3
9. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France 38-1-2
10. **ARNULFO CASTILLO**
    Mexico 27-0-2

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England 30-0
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines 42-7 (WBC Champ)
3. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO 30-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico 55-10 (IBF Champ)
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY 48-2-2
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico 24-1
7. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT 15-0
8. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico 50-8-3
9. **HECTOR LIZARRAGA**
   Fresno, CA 34-9-5
10. **DERRICK GAINER**
    Pensacola, FL 23-4

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa 35-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico 30-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN 33-3-1
4. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY 44-3
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 45-2
6. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV 22-1
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico 24-0 (WBA Champ)
8. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa 22-1
9. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
   Puerto Rico 23-2-1
10. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
    Brooklyn, NY 37-5-3

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH 18-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana 39-3 (WBA Champ)
3. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan 16-4-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia 38-1
5. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand 16-1
6. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX 24-0
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand 15-1
8. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 61-6-3
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico 27-1-1
10. **DARIO AZUAGA**
    Paraguay 42-0-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM 43-0-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 39-1-2 (WBC Champ)
3. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan 24-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand 14-1-1
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea 19-6
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia 21-2
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia 23-0
8. **RATANACHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 25-3
9. **JULIO GAMBOA**
   Nicaragua 21-2
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico 32-2-2

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 34-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 33-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina 50-5-2 (WBA Champ)
4. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela 24-4
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina 47-7-3
6. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 29-1
7. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 36-3
8. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France 12-0
9. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
   Thailand 30-3
10. **JESPER JENSEN**
    Denmark 28-1

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand 38-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 19-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 18-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa 48-10-2
5. **JUAN CORDOBA**
   Argentina 32-4-3
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 51-5-4
7. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 23-3-1
8. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ 45-4
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea 19-2
10. **TOMAS RIVERA**
    Mexico 14-3-2

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Flyweight
6. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
7. **NASEEM HAMED**
   Featherweight
8. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Junior Bantamweight
9. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
10. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
    Middleweight

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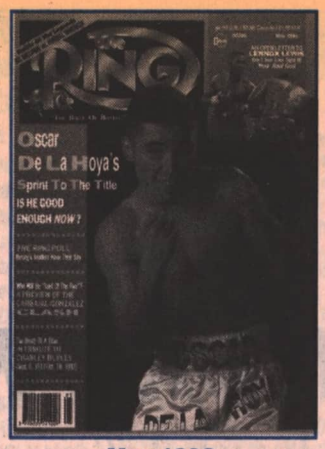

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NEW FACES

TROY BROWNING

Junior Welterweight

By Joe Santoliquito

Troy "Hurricane" Browning spends a lot of time alone, driving to and from workouts, and the visions that bounce through his head are always the same: Pernell Whitaker, Julio Cesar Chavez, Vince Phillips, Rafael Ruelas. He loses track of time and place, staying focused on the bumper just ahead, while in his mind he delivers a left hook to Chavez' ribs, or plows an overhand right to Ruelas' jaw. As he clutches the steering wheel to weave his way through traffic, Browning smiles. He always wins.

Through 17 fights, that winning scenario has played out very well in reality. The 5'8" junior welterweight from Willingboro, New Jersey, has chalked up an impressive 16-0-1 (8) record. The southpaw has sparred with Whitaker, and trained with IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins and lightweight contender Ivan Robinson. Browning, a father of four and full-time field technician for the New Jersey Water Department, feels the time is ripe for him to make a move in the 140-pound class.

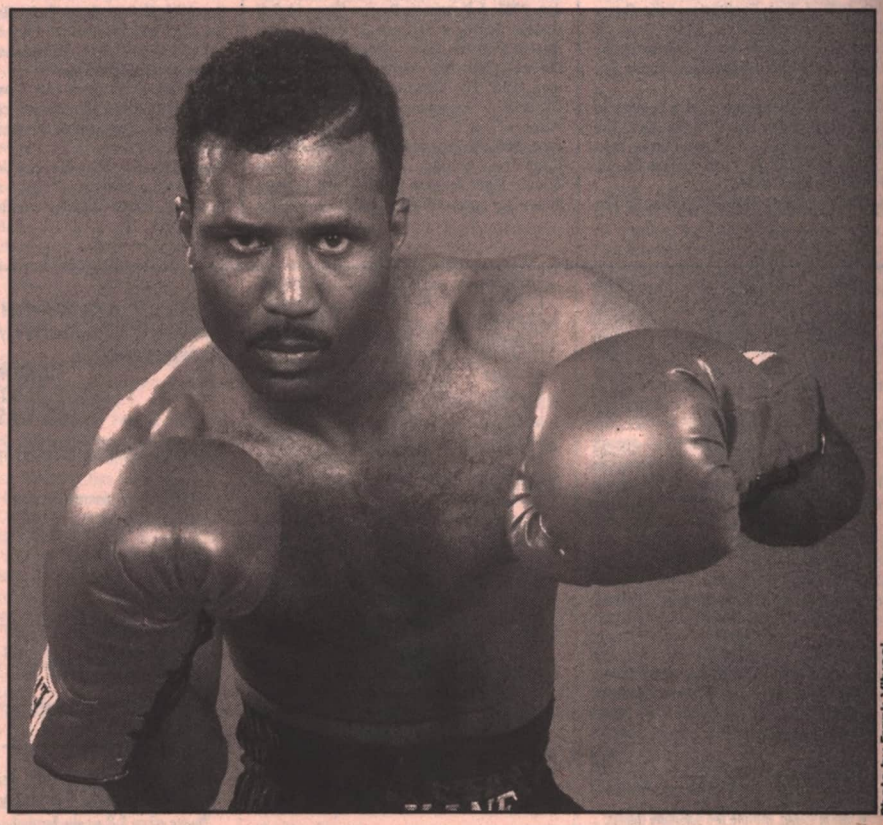
There's certainly no questioning his desire. He travels approximately 40 miles

(Continued on page 61)

PRO RECORD

1991		
June 4	Jon Robinson, Philadelphia	W 4
June 20	Pat Rose, Parsippany, NJ	W 4
Aug. 28	Troy Ryons, Philadelphia	KO 2
Nov. 26	Louis Marquez, Philadelphia	KO 1
1992		
Feb. 9	Curtis Peoples, Atlantic City	D 6
Sept. 14	Lennell Strohman, Philadelphia	KO 4
1993		
July 26	Tracy Cofield, Philadelphia	KO 1
Nov. 17	Lee Whisnant, Sanford, NC	KO 1
1994		
May 17	Kilpatrick Mitchell, Atlantic City	W 6
Sept. 29	Alberto Alicea, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ	KO 3
Dec. 2	Luis Andino, Philadelphia	W 8
1995		
Jan. 27	Sam Carter, Philadelphia	KO 1
June 23	Benji Singleton, Philadelphia	W 8
1996		
Jan. 19	Arturo Nina, Philadelphia	W 8
April 19	Ken Jamerson, Philadelphia	W 8
Sept. 6	Troy Smith, Philadelphia	KO 5
1998		
Mar. 27	Roger Brown, Philadelphia	W 6

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
17	16	0	1	8



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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

STOP AND SMELL THE SWEATSOCKS

Talk about being on-target. Whichever verbal marksman said that we don't appreciate things until they're gone certainly left a clean hole through the bull's-eye, didn't he? But there's a darned good reason we take things for granted in boxing: It seems as though nothing ever is gone. Hell, Joe Bugner and Trevor Berbick still turn up in the fight "Summary," Roberto Duran had been scheduled to turn up in the Madison Square Garden ring in June until the card was cancelled, and face-first Don Lalonde just turned up in the light heavyweight ranks, proving you can get blood from a turn-up.

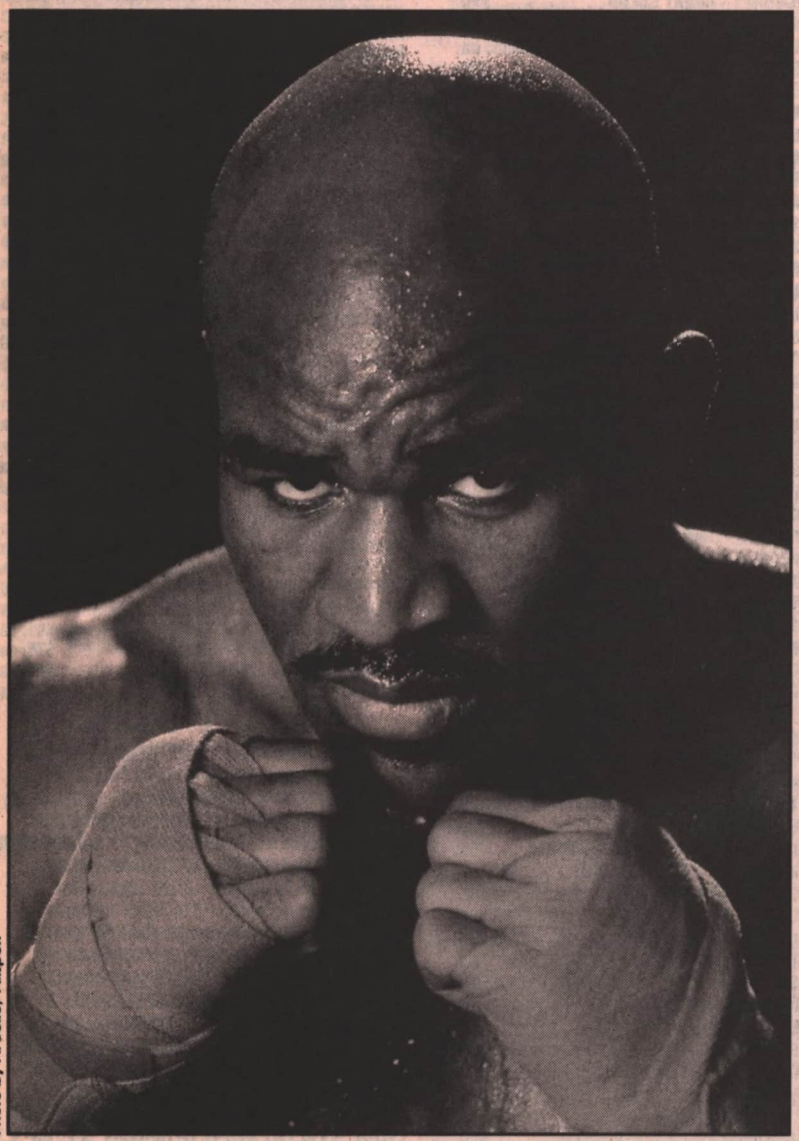

Photo by Al Bello/ Allsport

Holyfield: A champion to savor

And yet, despite boxing's bold march into the past, there actually are a few of its institutions that may be out of our sight and, consequently, out of our minds before very long. Yes, even in the Sweet Science, where time is frozen as solidly as the creamed corn in a TV dinner, there sometimes *is* an end. Witness the recent retirement of Eddie Futch, who once told me that he'd never quit the corner, and the non-comeback of Marvin Hagler, a guy who once seemed like the perfect candidate for a brief retirement.

The following endangered species list contains a few people, places, and things that haven't always been dear to our hearts, but we're nonetheless going to miss them to varying degrees when they're gone. So let's start appreciating them now, while we still can.

Evander Holyfield: The fight with Henry Akinwande was scrapped, sparing us all a bout that was drawing less interest than a passbook savings account. Of course, "The Real Deal" trained for the contest as though he was going into battle with Joe Louis. He worked out for 13 weeks and weighed in at a sand-blasted 218½ pounds. Not shabby—or flabby—for 35 years old.

Holyfield has spoiled us with his courage and will to win. We've come to expect it. What we sometimes overlook, though, is how hard he is still willing to work. Even some true greats have been reluctant to train hard in their twilight. Remember Muhammad Ali at the same age? For *his* weigh-in with Akinwande, Ali would have shown up with

the same gut he carried around against Alfredo Evangelista. And Larry Holmes would have had the love handles he displayed toward the end of his reign.

It has got to be awfully tough to punish your body for a fight you admit you don't want. And Holyfield's never thinking twice about doing so deserves our appreciation. Savor what is left of this guy's career. Against incredible odds, he has established himself as one of history's finest big men, and we never know how many years, or decades, it will be before another great heavyweight comes along.

Pernell Whitaker: Granted, he's gotten on our nerves lately. And the words "drug rehab" ought to go on his Hall of Fame plaque just to remind him how much he let everybody down. We can't, however, overlook someone who has been one of the best pure boxers of all-time.

Whitaker should be appreciated for two reasons. First, for much of his career, "Sweet Pea" was able to dominate even though he couldn't hit hard, wasn't exceptionally strong, and sometimes moved up in weight to face bigger opponents. During his prime, you could count on one hand the number of rounds he'd lose in a year. Second, he didn't duck anyone, except when they sent a right cross sailing toward his head. Which brings us to how fitting it is that Whitaker is close to the end. Because so, too, is ...

Gatti: We'll miss him when he's gone

Defense: These days, the defense doesn't just rest—it lapses into a deep sleep that lasts for entire fight cards. A shortage of real teachers in the training corps, and a proliferation of titles that allows even raw fighters to be coronated and paid quite nicely, have combined to drastically diminish the defensive-skill level in every weight class.

Don't get me wrong. Watching Hector Camacho, Michael Nunn, Virgil Hill, and Steve Collins performing the Three Minute Waltz round after round is pure torture. Who we should appreciate, though, are the secretaries of defense who don't let their desire to avoid punishment stifle their offense: Whitaker, Roy Jones, Johnny Tapia, Genaro Hernandez. Even Duran, at the age of a trillionsomething and with his reflexes shot, still shows subtle defensive moves that make the old-time trainers smile.

You'd think that in a sport where the idea is to hurt and not be hurt, fighters would devote 50 percent of their workout time to defense. Crazy thought, huh? The Eddie Futches and Georgie Bentons—who, after practicing defense in their careers, went on to preach it—may live to see the day when a fighter slipping a punch is the equivalent of a quarterback running the Statue of Liberty play. Or when defense is eliminated as a scoring criterion in the same way that the compulsories were junked in figure skating.

Fight cards in Los Angeles: As was mentioned in previous columns, this once-great boxing town is bleeding, staggering, and waiting for Mills Lane to step in and tell it the end has arrived. "The City Of Angels, Alfonsos, Rodolfos, Julios, And Rafaels" still churns out the talent, but if that talent wants to become a star, it fights in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, or somewhere else.

The saddest franchise move out of L.A. hasn't been the Raiders to Oakland or the Rams to St. Louis. It's been Oscar De La Hoya to Vegas every time he has a big fight. Unlike the football teams, "The Golden Boy" was an L.A. native, a homegrown sensation who, thanks to the often harsh economics of his business, can't make money if he stays home.

Appreciate what little boxing L.A. has left, specifically, the cards at the Great Western Forum. Head down there before they, too, are just a memory. The shows aren't great, but they are Jerry Buss' attempt to keep boxing alive in a building that has played host to, among others, Ali, Ken Norton, Ruben Olivares, Carlos Zarate, Alfonso Zamora, Danny Lopez, and Bobby Chacon.

Arturo Gatti: If Angel Manfredy didn't get to him, someone else would have. While nobody wants to see this throwback get hurt, you have to appreciate Gatti's complete disregard for life, liberty, and the pursuit of a future modeling career, as he launches left hooks from his ankles. We're looking at a career built for the short haul, but Gatti's short haul has been more fun to watch than most extended careers.

Mike Tyson: Is my head-over-heels love affair with powerhitters clouding my thinking here? Perhaps. Slap a puck 100 miles an hour, blast a tennis ball down the line with a trail of smoke behind it, or make legs quiver when your fist hits somebody's chin, and you've earned my appreciation.

Nobody in his right mind is going to miss Tyson's antics and attitude when he's gone, but, believe me, we'll miss his nuclear fists. With the exception of his wrestling matches with Bonecrusher Smith and Tony Tucker, Tyson has never provided a dull night in the ring. Sure, he knows only one way to fight: straight ahead and seeking a knockout with every punch. But if you're going to be one dimensional, there's no better dimension to have. ■

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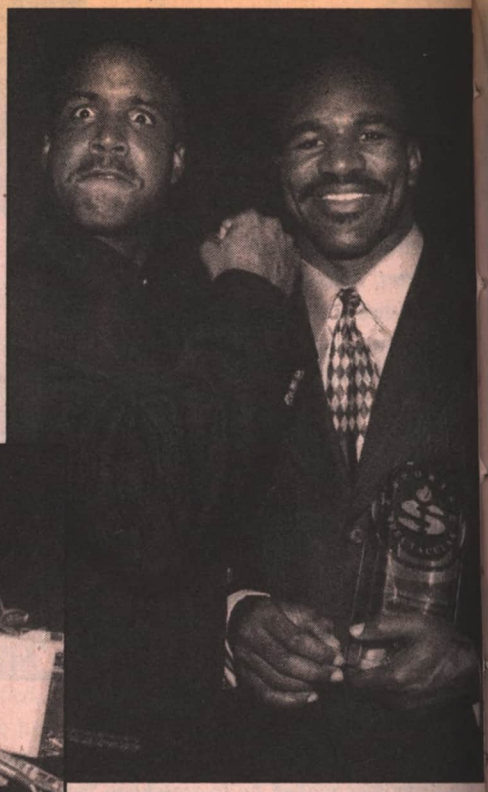


Photo by Jay Lash

Raise the roof: Light heavyweight Richard Hall was in the mood for mugging for the camera after he kayoed Gary Ballard in three rounds on April 30 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Who's the better slugger? Three-time National League MVP Barry Bonds tried to intimidate three-time RING Fighter of the Year Evander Holyfield when the two met at the 13th Annual Cedars-Sinai Sports Spectacular in May. Holyfield was presented with the organization's Athlete of the Year award.

Oscar De La Hoya has been criticized in recent months for his inability to line up a shot at the IBF welterweight titlist Felix Trinidad, but here "The Golden Boy" proves he can at least line up a shot at something. Note: De La Hoya plays pool lefthanded; is he saving his natural boxing stance for when he really needs it?

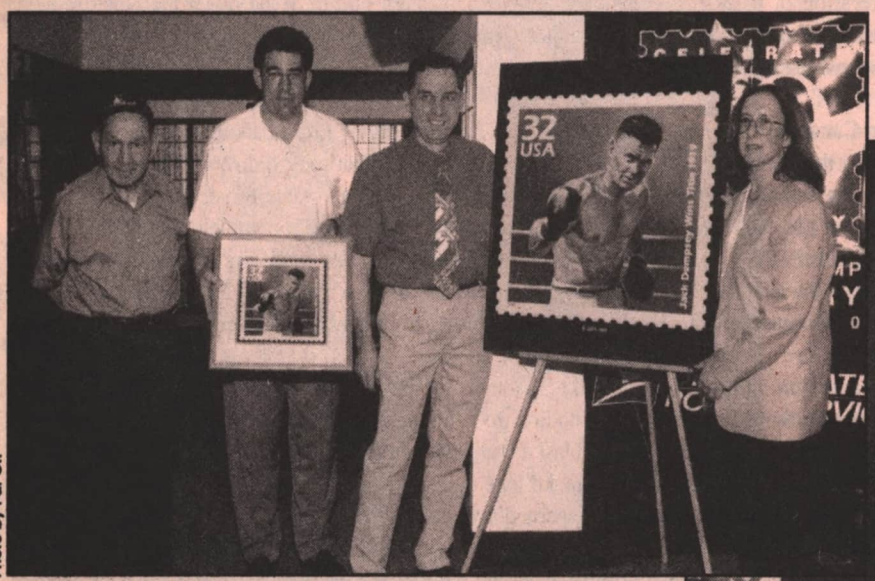


Photo by Pat Orr

At the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, a postage stamp commemorating Jack Dempsey's heavyweight title win was recently put on display. Unveiling the stamp were, from left to right: former featherweight champ Willie Pep, Hall of Fame Director Ed Brophy, Canastota Mayor Mark Lavonas, and Canastota Postmaster Cheryl Matt.

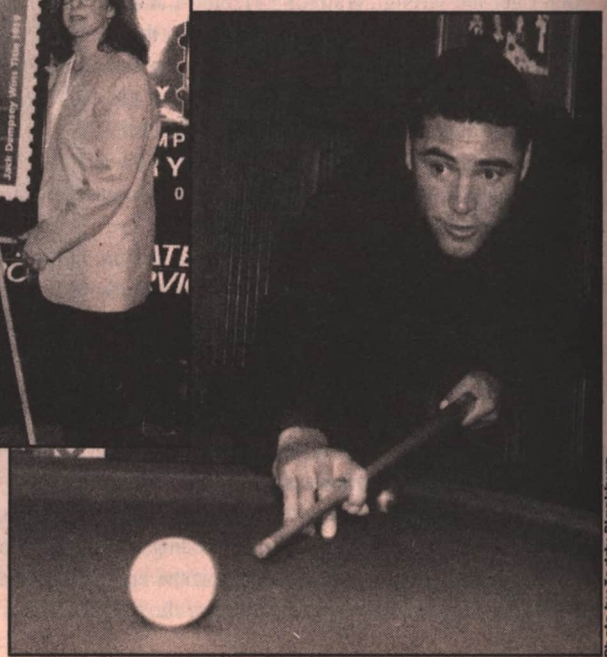


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Tommy Hearns' fists were all he needed in his younger days, but now "The Hitman" concedes that he could use the help of a nightstick. Hearns played tug-of-war with a police officer at Penn Station in New York City in May during a public workout.

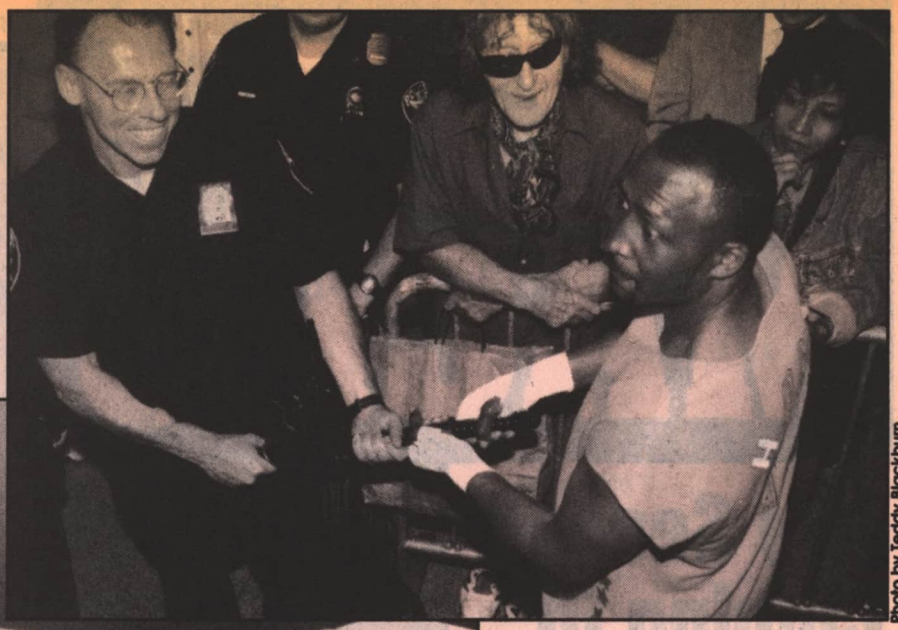


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

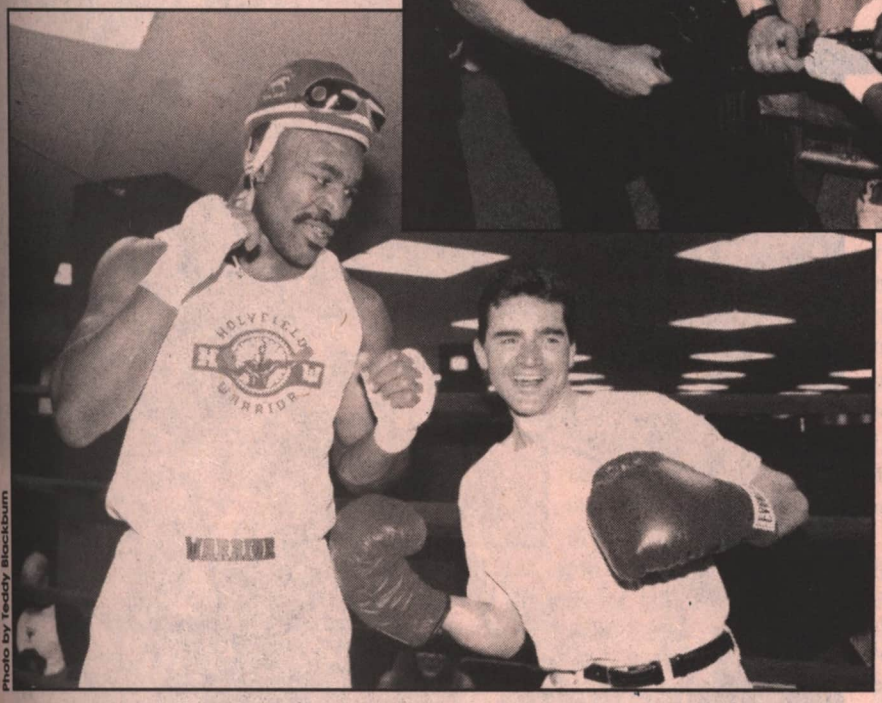


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Jockey Kent Desormeaux is considering trading in his Kentucky Derby-winning horse Real Quiet for another thoroughbred known as Real Deal. Heavyweight champ Evander Holyfield is probably closer to the size of the horse than the size of the jockey, as evidenced by how poorly the helmet fits on his head.

Junior middleweight Connor Higgins' Coolio hairstyle didn't stop him from "slippity-sliding" down to the canvas in his pro debut in April. Though Higgins may have gone down twice in the first and only round of the fight, at least his hair stood straight up at all times.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

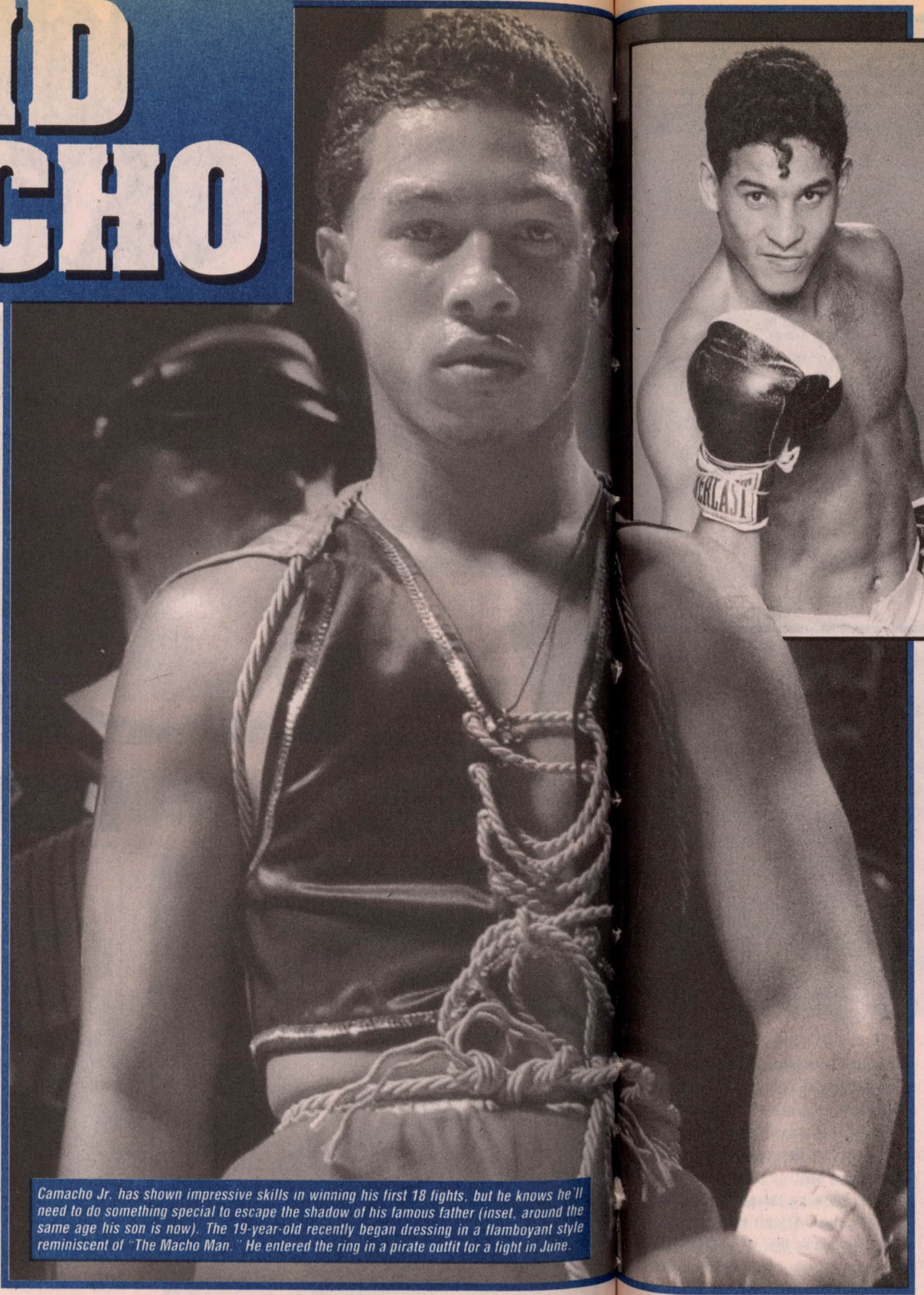
NOSTALGIA CORNER

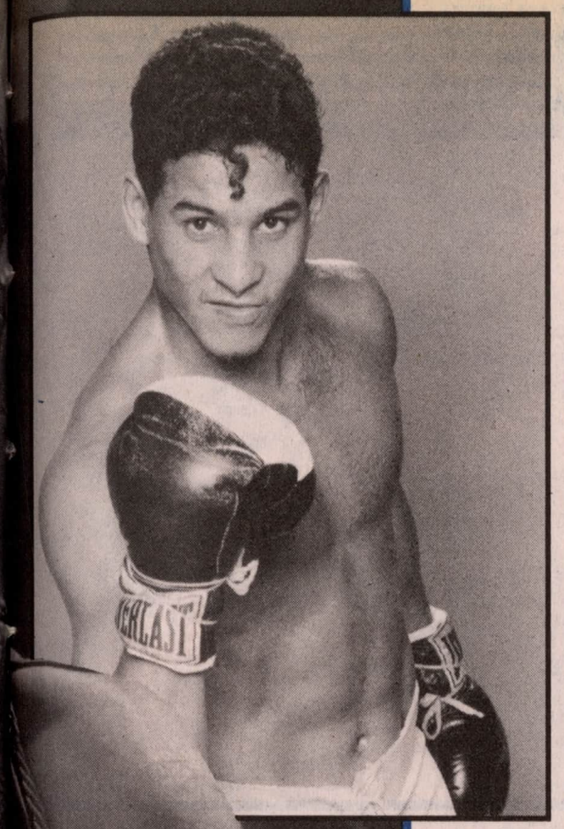
Former heavyweight champ Gene Tunney can't believe the circumference of opera tenor James McCracken's barrel chest, which measured 54 inches. Or maybe Tunney's look of astonishment is actually in response to the way McCracken appears to have combed his beard with a rake in preparation for his role in Othello.

KID MACHO

The Second Coming Of Hector Camacho?

Photos by Judith M. Polny





Camacho Jr. has shown impressive skills in winning his first 18 fights, but he knows he'll need to do something special to escape the shadow of his famous father (inset, around the same age his son is now). The 19-year-old recently began dressing in a flamboyant style reminiscent of "The Macho Man." He entered the ring in a pirate outfit for a fight in June.

By Johnnie Whitehead

The fighter's father paces aimlessly, chanting and hurling occasional obscenity-laced taunts toward the opponent through the dressing room curtain.

"What time is it?"

"It's Macho Time!"

"What time is it?"

Imagine how wound up Hector "Macho" Camacho would be if he were psyching *himself* up to fight.

"There's a lot of pressure," said 19-year-old Hector Camacho Jr., a junior welterweight in his second year as a professional. "If I don't become better than my father, I'll just be known as the son of Macho Camacho. I want my own name. I know it's going to be tough."

It's that motivation—nurtured by the warmth of the spotlight and a father's hard-edged love—that has him in search of his own identity. There are big shoes to fill for the young man who, at six years of age, delighted a Madison Square Garden crowd by scurrying around in the ring before one of Dad's championship fights. He's a kid who, as young as age seven, had to fight

> "It does bother me. It would bother any son, a father going around acting like a nut."
>
> —HECTOR CAMACHO JR.

off New York neighborhood roughs because his father had paid them $20 to pick a fight to toughen him up.

"My father, what he has done is tremendous," Hector Jr. said of the 36-year-old two-division former champion. "My father's my heart. Most people just see the crazy antics. But he's a good family man."

Public perception would have a hard time confirming that one. Not because of The Macho Man's comical, sometimes incorrigible behavior that has earned him millions, but because of a rap sheet littered with charges and transgressions that reads like that of a player for the Dallas Cowboys. To name only a few:

•Charges of assault and cocaine use after allegedly pulling a gun on a juvenile in Clewiston, Florida, in 1988.

•Driving 35 miles per hour in his Ferrari on Interstate-75 in Fort Myers, Florida, with a suspended license while "trying to do the wild thing," according to a state trooper, in 1991.

•An arrest for a hotel parking lot brawl with two police officers, during which an allegedly intoxicated Camacho repeatedly yelled, "I'm The Macho Man!"

•An arrest on an aggravated assault charge for fighting with his wife, Amy, in 1995, and a temporary restraining order (later dropped) after another incident of domestic violence this year.

•Charges of importing contraband after customs officials in San Juan, Puerto Rico, discovered an M-16 rifle in his luggage.

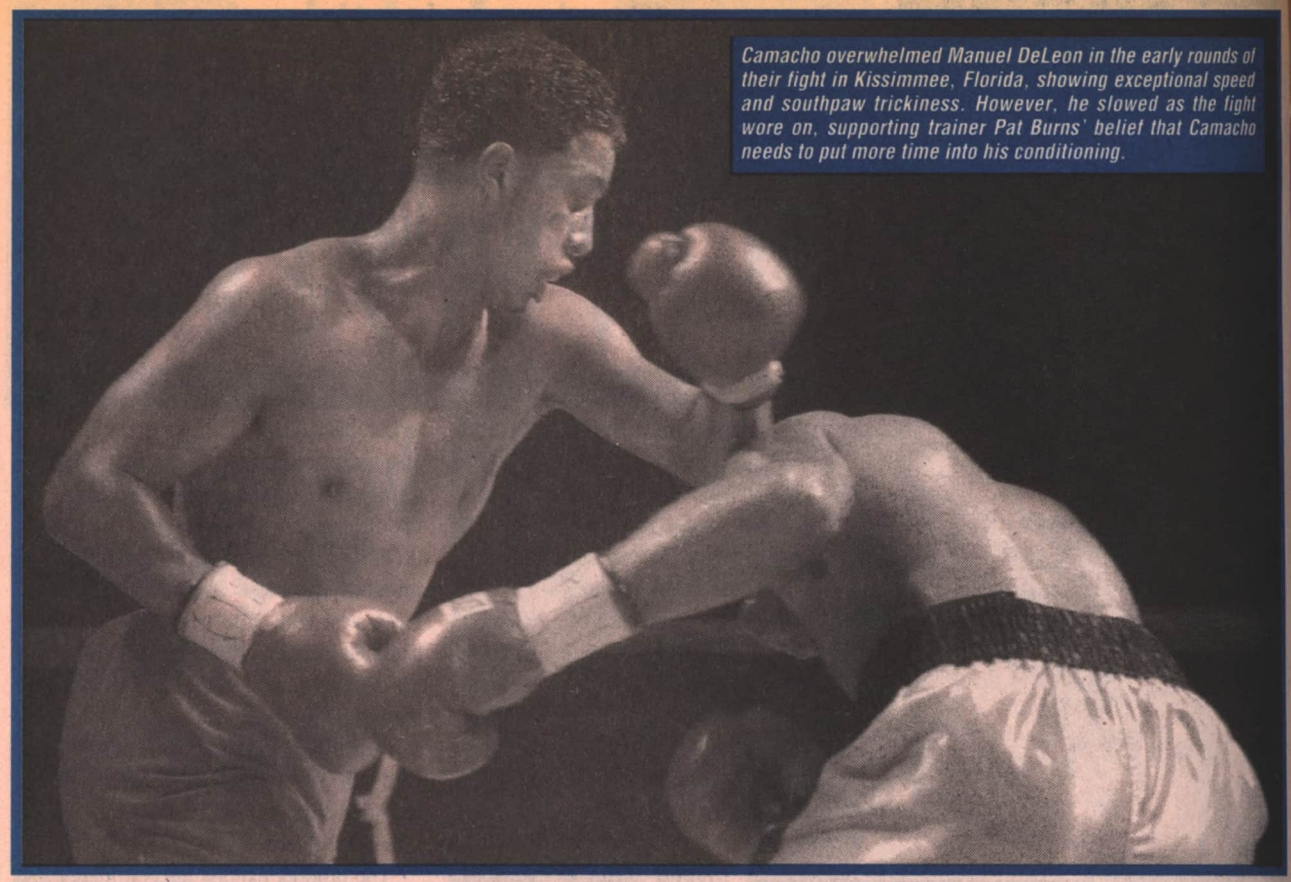
"It does bother me," said Camacho Jr. "It would bother any son, a father going around acting like a nut. But I decided it's going to happen to him, not to me. I've got to put that aside."

On June 5 at the Kissimmee Civic Center, it would have been difficult to tell the difference between the two. Junior, 18-0 (12), entered the ring looking like he'd raided his father's wardrobe. He wore a black vest with gold trim, red shorts also trimmed in gold, a gold cape, a patch over his left eye, and a black hat with red plumes. Only the fashion police threatened to ruin this homecoming. (Camacho Sr. lives in nearby Orlando, and his son attended high school in that area before moving to Puerto Rico.)

The prodigy exuded the confidence and flashed the skills that had made his father a champion several times over. The dizzying speed. The combinations. The elusiveness. The southpaw style. By the third round, Manuel DeLeon, a stone-faced journeyman who had won only half of his 26 fights, was blinded by the Macho flair. Junior patted with the jab in taunting fashion before zinging a stinging left over the top. And just in case DeLeon didn't know what hit him, he was given a few verbal reminders.

"That's all part of marketing," Hector Jr. said after winning an eight-round unanimous decision before a raucous, partisan crowd of about 1,500. "Outside of the ring, I'm more quiet. I'm more decent. I like to go to hospitals, talk to kids. I'm into giving back to the people. The public makes you. That's who I am. That's how I was raised to be. I want to give back and talk to the kids. I just want to be a role model in and out of the ring."

Could this be, a Camacho wanting to live a clean life and set a good example? A Camacho shunning the spotlight? He is still a Camacho, after all, and trainer Pat Burns, who worked with Hector Jr. for the DeLeon fight, sees that there are many steps left to be taken in the maturing



Camacho overwhelmed Manuel DeLeon in the early rounds of their fight in Kissimmee, Florida, showing exceptional speed and southpaw trickiness. However, he slowed as the fight wore on, supporting trainer Pat Burns' belief that Camacho needs to put more time into his conditioning.

process. Hector Jr. blew off a workout and a father-son photo shoot for *ESPN Magazine* the day after the DeLeon fight. Burns sees the larger picture, and it's blurred by too many hangers-on and sycophants.

"He has a lot of talent, but he does not have a good work ethic," said Burns. "Junior has been training mostly in Puerto Rico. He has just been drifting. He's winning, but it's pretty obvious that he needs to go to another level."

At the father's insistence, Burns tentatively agreed to work with the son. A Miami police officer for 23 years, Burns has heard every excuse in the book (Camacho Jr. said his girlfriend was sick, so he flew back to Puerto Rico instead of going to the photo shoot). His skepticism is evident.

"He's going to have to change everything he's doing now because he's not ready to move up [in competition]," said Burns. "He needs to start to live the life of a world champion. He has 25 people hanging around him. I'm a disciplinarian, and I'm going to push him to the next level. If he wants to do that, then we'll be able to go somewhere. I run my camps like a Marine Corps. We do three-a-days. We run hard in the morning. We do the gym work in the middle of the day and then we do strength training in the evening. He's running mediocre. His gym work is just enough to get by. He's not doing any strength training. He could not survive one day of a workout we'd put him through."

Getting into the kind of condition Burns is looking for would mean Camacho Jr. would have to relocate to Miami, where Burns has been training Hector Sr. since his demolition of Ray Leonard in 1997.

"He's not in shape," the trainer said of Hector Jr. "They haven't fed him anyone real tough. The first time he gets in a real tough eight to 10 rounds, he's going to beat the heck out of the guy for five rounds, and then he's going to run out of gas."

Which is what happened in Junior's bout with DeLeon, who, though he weighed in at 146 pounds, came in slightly over the middleweight limit on fight night.

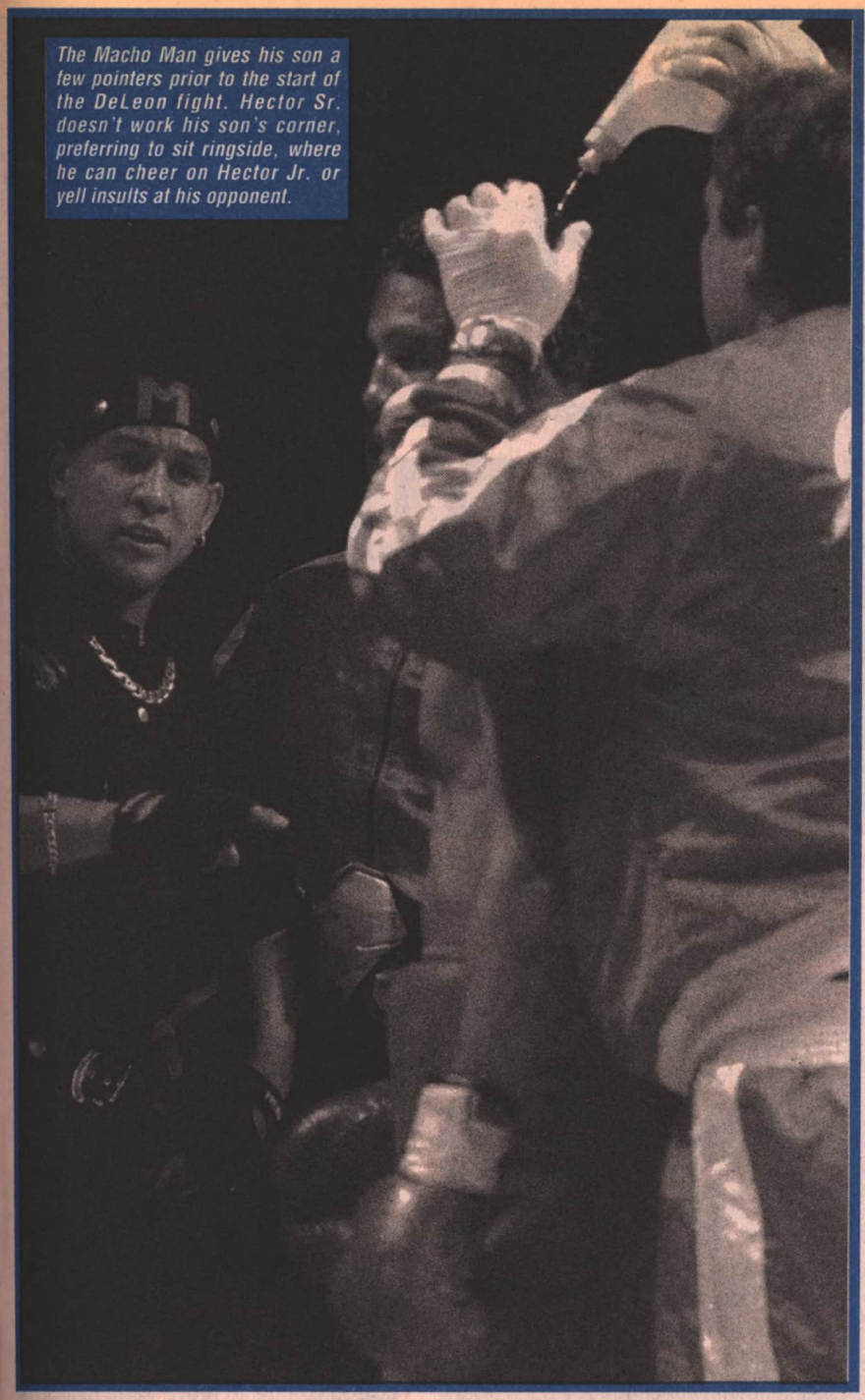
With DeLeon retreating and his nose busted in the fourth round, the outcome seemed certain. In the fifth, however, DeLeon finally pinned Camacho on the ropes long enough to connect with three whipping bodyshots. By the sixth round, Hector Sr., who was taunting the opposing corner only a few rounds before, was in a crouched position at ringside, like an offensive lineman, with his face even redder than DeLeon's.

"I don't work the corner," said Camacho Sr. "I do better when I'm around the ring; then I can scream. I'm a fan, and I'll be able to send him messages. Through the corner of his eyes, he sees me out there."

It wasn't until late in the seventh stanza that Camacho Jr. halted DeLeon's rally with a perfectly timed right uppercut during an inside exchange. Everyone could take a deep sigh, as the kid had caught his second wind.

"He's still a kid. He's still young," explained Camacho Sr. "You don't recognize what you're doing. Have fun. That's how you move up. That's what I did."

Camacho Jr. was resistant to the Macho Time image at first, preferring to make waves in his own way. But he eventually relented, knowing the road less traveled would be too difficult this early in his career. He knows that no matter what he does to distance himself, the comparisons never will end until he accomplishes some-



The Macho Man gives his son a few pointers prior to the start of the DeLeon fight. Hector Sr. doesn't work his son's corner, preferring to sit ringside, where he can cheer on Hector Jr. or yell insults at his opponent.

thing that sets him apart.

"My father's accomplishments are out of my league right now. [Exceeding them] is not something I *want* to do. It's something I *have* to do. That's my goal," said Camacho Jr. "That's what drives me."

Highly regarded at light welterweight as an amateur, Hector Jr. lost his chance at making the 1996 Olympic team when he lost to Zab Judah in the opening round of the U.S. Boxing Trials in Oakland, California. He was then eliminated from the tournament when he was disqualified for a low blow against Calvin Green.

Shortly after, on an October 1, 1996, USA Network card from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, he made his professional debut with a four-round unanimous decision over Lou Martinez. Camacho Sr. fought in the main event, marking only the third time in modern boxing history that a father and son have fought together as professionals. In his seventh fight, he beat Hector Legullow in Las Vegas with a second-round knockout on the eve of Dad's disastrous date with Oscar De La Hoya last year. They share the same manager, Puerto Rico's Ismail Leandry, who signed Camacho Jr. to a three-year deal—expiring in 1999—that included a $40,000 signing bonus. The missing piece is the attention. Ever since his Olympic bid fell short, Junior has been a relative unknown.

"Right now, most of his fights have not been on TV," said Camacho Sr. "I want to get him fights on USA, HBO, and Showtime. I want to keep him busy and get him on a couple cards with me. I've had my share of exposure. I've been fighting for almost 20 years."

Junior's not aligned with a promoter, insisting that he's waiting for the right deal to come along: "I'm in no rush. I feel like a baby, still got much to learn." In the meantime, he's determined to live and box on his own terms, Miami and magazine shoots be damned.

"I feel comfortable in Puerto Rico," said Camacho Jr., who lives alone and trains under Felix Trinidad Sr., father of the IBF welterweight champion, when he's home. But Burns feels that if Camacho's really going to improve, he needs to relocate to Miami and dedicate himself completely.

"Mosley. Gatti. Johnston. These guys are tremendous workers," Burns said, referring to some of the bigger names in the 135-pound division. "He would not be able to hang with those guys right now. He'd lose the fight in the last four or five rounds.

Camacho Sr. agrees there's still a lot of work to be done.

"To be better than his father, he's got to win championships," said the former WBC super featherweight and lightweight titleholder. "He's far from that. He has to be doing something I've forgot how to do or can't do. Now he's got to bring it up a notch."

Junior is still only 19 years old, so he's figuring out what he wants as he goes along. And he knows whether he's in Miami or Puerto Rico, he'll only be a phone call away from the guidance he needs.

"Any questions, that would be the first guy I'd run to," said Camacho Jr. "My father." ■

Johnnie Whitehead is a sports writer for the Orlando Sentinel.

Planning Past The Next Punch

THE ROUGH RIDERS TRY TO SMOOTH OUT BOXERS' FUTURES

By Robert Cassidy

When Buddy McGirt looks out at today's boxing landscape, he sees plenty of fighters "I know I can beat." Not long ago, he was offered $500,000 to fight Julio Cesar Chavez in Mexico. McGirt, a two-time former world champion who yearned for a Chavez fight throughout his 15-year career, turned it down.

"I promised my son and daughter that I'd never fight again," said McGirt, 34. "For all the money in the world, I can't break that promise."

McGirt has made another promise he cannot break and that is to the fighters he now looks after. McGirt has promised to guide them through the cut-throat business of boxing. When he looks out at the boxing landscape he also recognizes that it's time for a serious change. That is why he accepted a job to train and manage fighters that belong to a newly created boxing club, the New York Rough Riders. The club is more than a team or an organization, it is a philosophy.

"What we want to do is bring boxing into the 21st century," said McGirt. "The fighters we work with have to have a plan for life after boxing. Whether they want to go to school or get into business, there has to be more than just boxing."

The Rough Riders came into being in September of 1997. It was founded by a pair of New York-based businessmen, Ivan Kronenfeld and Carl Koerner. Kronenfeld, who once boxed as an amateur, has been a life-long boxing enthusiast whose uncle, Dave Brust, briefly managed featherweight champion Kid Chocolate. The philosophy behind The Rough Riders begins with the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt, who boxed while attending Harvard and sparred in the White House, once said, "Boxing is a thoroughly good and manly sport. There are very few sports as good for strong young men who require an outlet for their vigor."

The team's name comes from Roosevelt's "Rough Riders," the heroic Fifth Calvary Regiment that Roosevelt commanded in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt's military valor and the fact that he would later become the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize are viewed in equal importance by Kronenfeld, who has made his living in the entertainment industry.

The idea for the Rough Riders boxing club was hatched when Kronenfeld invited Koerner, an attorney, to the New York Golden Gloves championships two years ago. They enjoyed the sheer excitement of the competition and couldn't understand why the sport was mired in a downward cycle. So, they began to dissect the business side of boxing, and they firmly believe they can make a positive change.

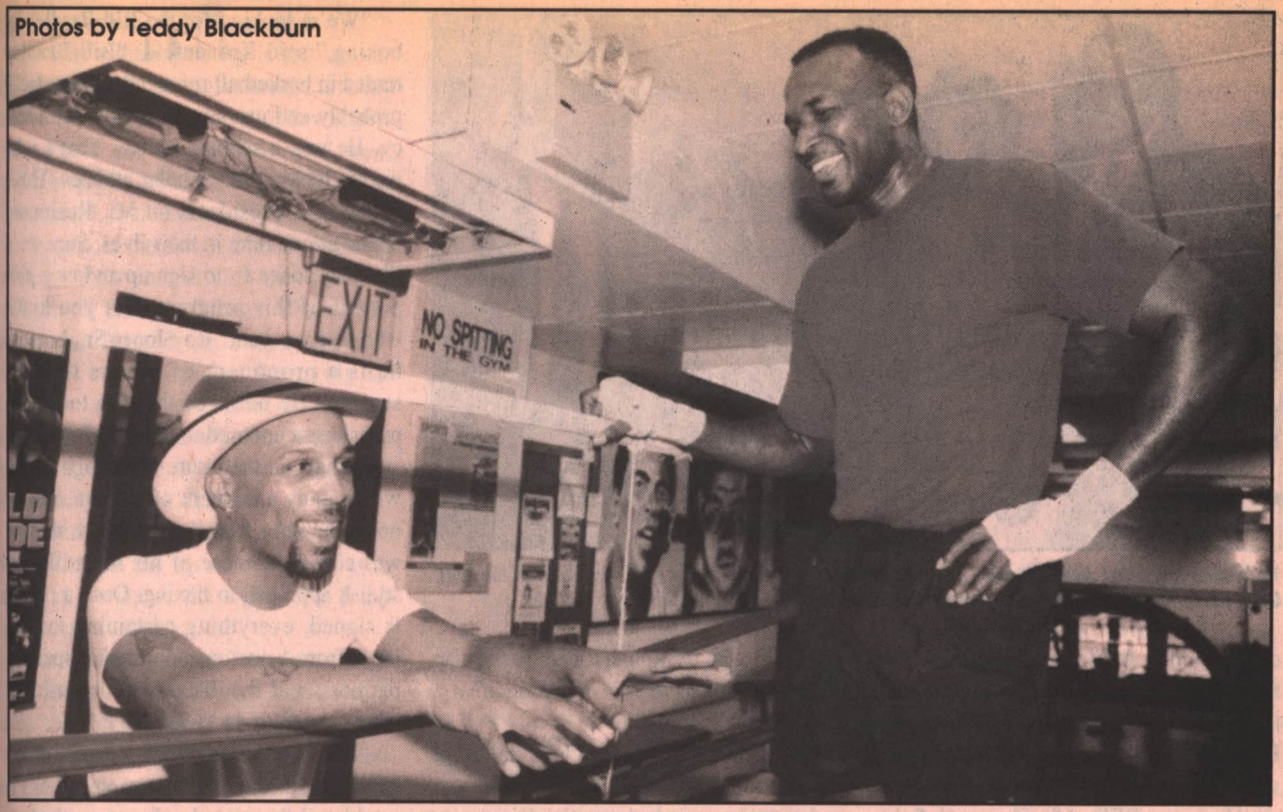
"Boxing has lasting values," said the 48-year-old Koerner. "It's a great metaphor for life. It has lessons in character, courage, discipline, and personal responsibility. Of course, that does not mean everyone involved in it has character. Boxing is a great, great sport in the hands of clowns."

The timing may be perfect for a boxing makeover. The popularity of boxing is at its lowest point in decades. Sen. John McCain has already introduced the Boxing Safety Act into law and he seems to have generated a wave of political support to better the sport. Kronenfeld, 51, and Koerner are not the first idealists to challenge boxing's corrupt core. The sport seems to breed mischief and miscreants, but the pairs remain undeterred by those who have failed in the past.

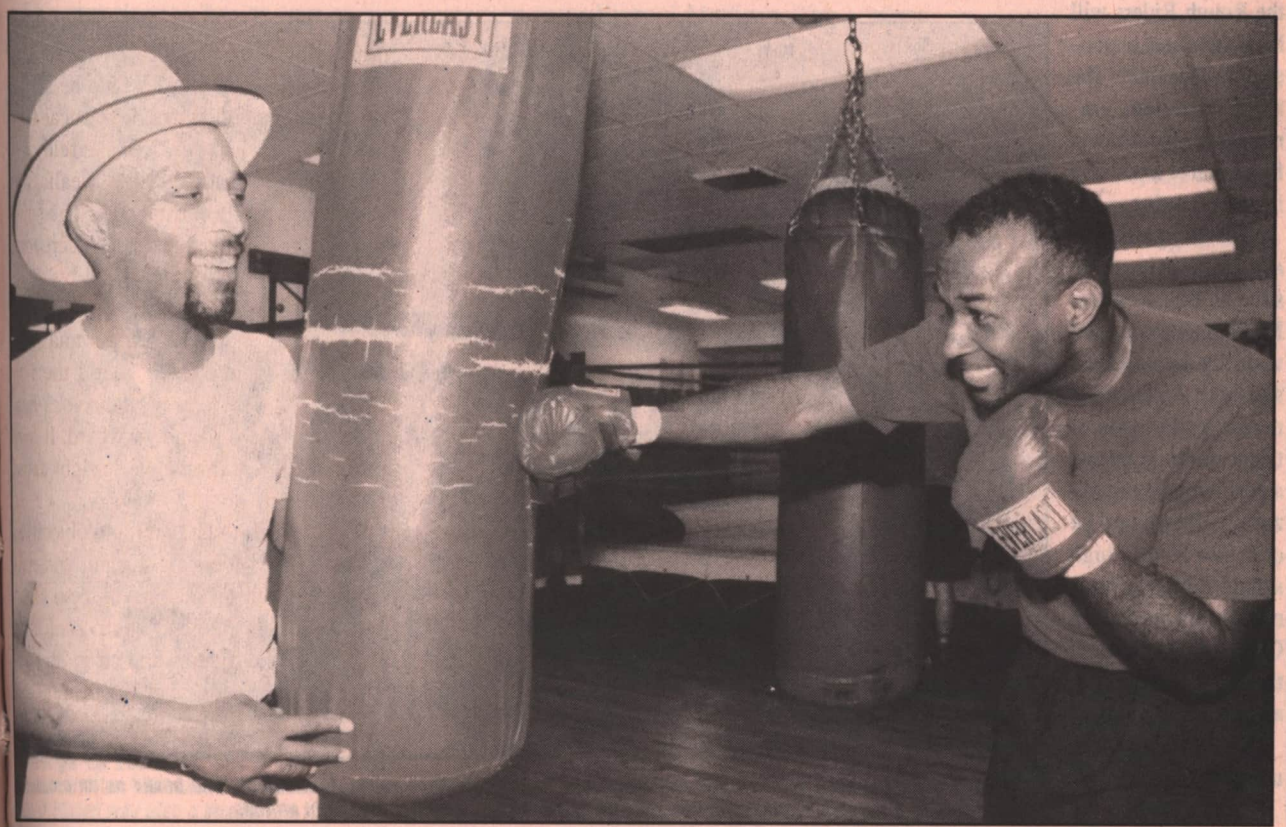
"It may be that we'll end up total failures," said Kronenfeld. "That's the risk we're taking. We're pretty tenacious bastards and we're working very hard. It may take some time to prove we're right about this."

There seems to be two main objectives in the Rough Riders fight plan, and neither is centered on making money. Or at least not quick money. Their goal is to take care of the fighters and clean up boxing's image. Koerner and Kronenfeld put Rough Rider candidates through a lengthy interview process before they will agree to work with him or her (yes, they wel-

Photos by Teddy Blackburn



Whether it's giving general advice or holding the heavybag, two-time former champion Buddy McGirt is happy to give middleweight Steve Frank, a charter member of the New York Rough Riders, the benefit of his vast experience in all facets of the Sweet Science.



Television journalist John Johnson, McGirt, Director of External Affairs for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Knettie Archard, Carl Koerner, and Ivan Kronenfeld gather at a charity affair.

come women fighters). If a prospective fighter did not graduate from high school, they must obtain a General Equivalency Diploma, and the Rough Riders will provide a tutor who will work with the fighter until he gets a GED. After that, each fighter is encouraged to think about a field he would like to pursue after boxing. Again, the Rough Riders will help them get experience in that field. The most important prerequisite is that a fighter have a plan for life after boxing.

The Rough Riders are determined to stick to this formula. McGirt was posed with this hypothetical situation: An Olympic medalist with a ton of talent wants to pursue a deal with the organization. However, he does not have a high school diploma, he is not interested in a GED, and doesn't think much about life after boxing.

"Then he's not for us," said McGirt.

Even if he has the potential to put the Rough Riders on the map and bring millions into the organization?

"We don't want him."

Kronenfeld, who in his youth trained at the Bedford Boys Club in Brooklyn and today trains regularly at the Kingsway Gym, explained the type of athlete they are seeking.

"We're looking for the Bill Bradley of boxing," said Kronenfeld. "Bill Bradley traded in basketball for an education. He'll probably end up running for the presidency. He was a scholar athlete. That's who we are looking for, scholar athletes. Three of the four Presidents on Mt. Rushmore boxed at one time in their lives. Sure we'd like Roy Jones Jr. to sign up and be a proponent of this program. But you know who else we want? Roy Jones Sr., because he is a proponent of boxers training smarter. He believes there is too much punishment endured in the gym."

Perhaps in the future the Rough Riders will employ a network of trainers. But for now, the sole trainer is McGirt, and he was chosen because of his scientific and stylish approach to boxing. Once a fighter is signed, everything pertaining to boxing—from selecting opponents, sparring partners, and the distance of a particular fight—is left up to McGirt.

"I've been through every aspect of the game," said McGirt. "I was on top of the world and the next day I was on the bottom. I fought for a million dollars one fight and then $20,000 the next. No one

Kronenfeld holds the pads as McGirt demonstrates one of boxing's finer points. Kronenfeld, who boxed as an amateur, puts candidates through a lengthy interview process to ensure that they have the right attitude.

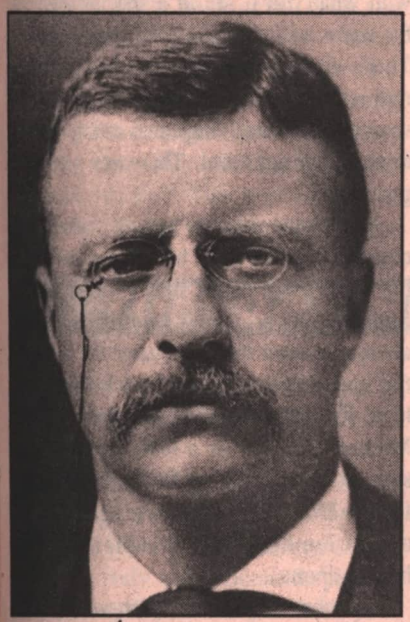
thinks it can happen to them, but it does."

McGirt's main priority is to train the fighters and approve opponents. Currently under his tutelage are middleweights Steve Frank and Lavan Easley and super middleweight Abdella Smith. McGirt, Kronenfeld, and Koerner hope not only that lessons in the Sweet Science will stay with the fighters, but also that altruism will rub off on their fighters. The organization has formed the James "Buddy" McGirt Foundation for Seriously Ill Children, and recently McGirt and his Rough Riders put on a boxing exhibition to raise money for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for sick children.

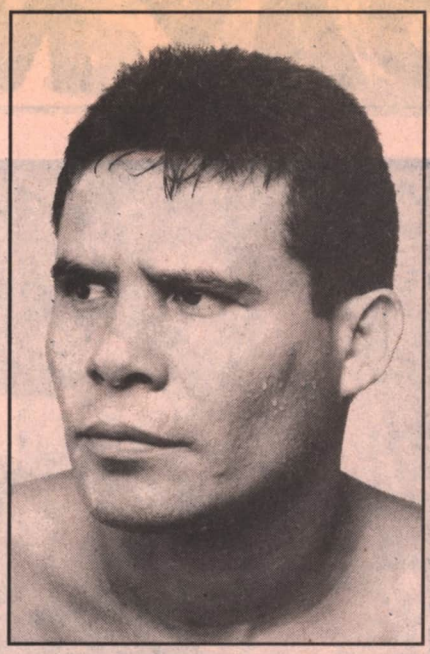
McGirt also added that, perhaps more important than any instruction he gives in the gym, he wants his fighters to learn how to handle their money.

"I tell them to trust no one in boxing," said McGirt. "When it's time to get paid, I make the fighter go get the money. This way he knows what he's getting. No matter how much money you make in boxing, you have to be able to keep that money. We want to make sure our fighters are putting their money away properly."

The organization has an impressive Board of Advisers that includes writers,



The boxing Rough Riders take their name from Theodore Roosevelt's 5th Calvary, famous for its charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War. The 26th President of the United States was also a boxing fan.



McGirt reportedly turned down $500,000 to fight Julio Cesar Chavez because he'd promised his children that he would never fight again. Now he's helping other fighters prepare for eventual retirement.

doctors, a military adviser to the U.N., a social worker, Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist John Johnson, and television actor Richard Mulligan. The advisers were assembled to help the fighters during and after their careers.

"If our doctor says one of our fighters can't fight anymore, that's it," said McGirt. "But we stay with them. It's a big transition when you leave boxing. If a fighter doesn't have help, he'll go back to boxing. That's not always the best thing. I know that. The Rough Riders are in this for the long haul. We believe in staying from Day One until the end. We're family."

The second part of Kronenfeld and Koerner's grand plan is to clean up the image of boxing by bringing reliability and consistency to the sport. They point to mismatches as the primary reason that fans are driven away from the sport.

"We both like opera very much," said Kronenfeld. "There are some poor operas. But when it's great, there is nothing like it. In order for it to be great, you have to put on the real operas. It's the same with boxing. You have to put on real fights. Right now there are four great welterweights—Oscar De La Hoya, Felix Trinidad, Ike Quartey, and Pernell Whitaker. That should mean we'll see great welterweight fights. But we're not seeing those fights, and that hurts boxing. When Mike Tyson fights Peter McNeeley, that's a fixed fight. That can't be good opera."

Added Koerner: "The prevailing attitude in boxing is to make another nickel at the end of the day. But the greater value is in the franchise, in the sport itself. How many championship belts are there today? Too many. We call that franchise dilution. You are taking something of value and breaking it down into less valuable parts."

The idea that no one man is bigger than boxing is not entirely accurate. While it may ring true in other sports, boxing has always been driven by larger-than-life superstars. Other sports can thrive because teams can achieve greatness without relying on one star. Koerner and Kronenfeld understand that a team can be the attraction in team sports and that is why they want the Rough Riders to be identified as a boxing team. Their long-term goal is to develop several teams—nationally and internationally—that will compete in a league.

"We're moving in a direction we hope other people will move toward," said Koerner. "We'd like to increase the frequency of boxing shows. Our focus is not the blockbuster value of a single event. We hope to build reliability and consistency. Right now, there's nothing to bring you back to boxing, because it's unreliable."

The team concept may be difficult to employ in such an individual sport. But boxing has clearly lost credibility with the mainstream sports fan, so any change may be a good change. A team of Rough Riders, though, will be successful in boxing only if they can fight. And that may take time to develop.

"We've got time and patience," said McGirt, who once waited three years between title fights. "This is the best idea for boxing and boxers that I've seen in a while. Boxing is ready for this. Boxing needs this." ■

Robert Cassidy is a freelance writer based in New York City.

TUESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS

A Look Back At Boxing's Longest Running TV Series

By William Dettloff

There are many constants in boxing. Most are negative in nature and needn't be recounted here; you know what they are. Fortunately, there are also a fair number of positives, and they keep us coming back when we think we can't possibly abide another corrupt governing body, unjust decision, or bad pay-per-view card. For the past 17 years, one of the positives has been the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights* series. But as you no doubt know by now, the USA Network has decided, for reasons most of us will never fully understand, to pull the plug on the sport's longest-running weekly series since the old *Friday Night Fights* bit the dust in the 1960s.

The savage brawl between Kevin Kelley and Troy Dorsey stands out as one of the best fights ever televised on Tuesday Night Fights, or any other network for that matter. Kelley won a close decision.

As we went to press, it appeared that a grass-roots, fan-based campaign intended to save the show had failed. While at the time of this writing it is too early yet to tell for sure if the August 25 show will be the last, the signs point in that direction. So it may be time to pay homage to the series that has been a staple of the game for nearly two decades.

What follows is our tribute to the *Tuesday Night Fights*. The selections you will find on the following pages are admittedly subjective, and may not coincide with what you'll see in a special segment the series will air during the show's finale. That's all right. The program has provided more memorable moments than can be squeezed into any magazine article or 15-minute highlight reel. There are plenty to go around.

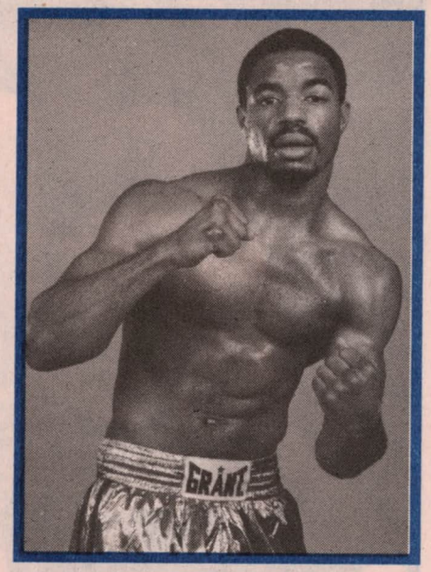
The nonchalant charm and cornball humor of Al Albert and Sean O'Grady made the Tuesday Night Fights' broadcast team popular guests in the homes of millions of boxing fans for over 10 years.

While other weekly boxing shows have come and gone, *TNF* has persevered, airing an average of 42 shows a year, three fights per show. It was here that we were always assured that no matter the state of the game at the moment—whether on a high, like after George Foreman's kayo of Michael Moorer, or a low, like after the second Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson fight—*TNF* was happy to give us our fix of left hooks, flying mouthpieces, and human drama.

As other series started as weekly programs, then turned to bi-monthly, and now air with all the regularity of a Roy Jones title defense, *Tuesday Night Fights* has been there, keeping it simple, keeping it basic. The show never sported the marquee fighters in marquee fights, and it's never carried the frills and high price tags of our friends over at the premium cable channels. But it's been consistent. And reliable. You could all but set your clock by it, and if you asked any fight fan on the street what he'd be doing on an upcoming Tuesday night, he'd be sure to tell you he was watching the fights on USA.

The series has been a constant, a warm, friendly reminder that at least in the comfort of your own living room, it was still acceptable to be a fight fan, to plant yourself in the same spot on the couch every week at the same time and watch a pair of pugs beat all hell out of one another.

At the helm for most of the ride—the last 10 years to be exact—has been the duo of blow-by-blow announcer Al Albert and analyst Sean O'Grady. Make no mistake about it, we aren't likely to ever see them alongside Don Dunphy in the Hall of Fame. But they have always been, well, likable, in large part because they never tried to give the impression that they were doing anything more important than calling a fight. There have never been any involved metaphors, outlandish histrionics, or colorful story telling. They never took themselves, or what they did, too seriously. Just two guys one might like to share a few cold ones with while watching the fights. Laid back, fun stuff. This is all most of us want; to feel like we're watching the fights with a couple of buddies.



Olympic hero David Reid is one of many young fighters to gain priceless exposure by fighting on TNF. How will the void be filled?

While the series was always a down-to-earth, straight-forward program with little fluff, there were plenty of innovative features on tap to keep us tuned in in between fights, and even in between rounds: the "In This Corner" segment, where prominent boxing figures spoke their mind about whatever topic appealed to them; "KO Komments," where O'Grady answered letters sent to the network about the sport or the program; the "Back In Time" segments, which showed highlights of great fights and fighters from bygone eras; "From Bell To Bell ... And Beyond," which featured highlights from the previous month's cards; O'Grady interviewing trainers during the actual fight, a practice unheard of on any other network; and of course, the "Power Punch" of the night, which concluded every show. To the fight fan, this was all good, honest, fight-game kind of television. The stuff we hardcore types live for.

The fans aren't the only ones who have benefited from the show's existence, of course. The entire sport has gained. Along with matchmaker extraordinaire J Russell Peltz, the show helped make Philadelphia's Blue Horizon one of the most popular fight clubs in the country. And where would the comebacks of George Foreman, Larry Holmes, Hector Camacho, and Roberto Duran have gone without the repeated exposure the series gave them? What about our most recent Olympians? David Reid, Rhoshii Wells, Lawrence Clay-Bey, and Antonio Tarver have all appeared on *Tuesday Night Fights*. How will we see them now, chart their progression, or their failures? How will we know? But we digress. The intent here is not to lament what will be, but to celebrate what has been.

TUESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS' GREATEST HITS

There have been literally hundreds of great fights on the *TNF* series. These stand out as the best.

James Pipps W 10 Carmelo Negron *Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 30, 1985:* THE RING called this two-way slugfest "a truly magnificent display of controlled brutality ... one you'll tell your grandchildren about." Negron, who suffered several cuts, stayed on Pipps' chest throughout the bout, but lost a point for hitting low, which cost him the fight via split decision. How brutal was it? Well, *both* winner and loser were given 60-day medical suspensions by the New Jersey commission.

Jorge Paez W 15 Calvin Grove *Mexicali, Mexico, August 4, 1988:* A sold-out bullring filled with rabid Paez fans added greatly to what was an excellent fight in its own right. Behind on points going into the final round, Paez, an unknown outside of Mexico at the time, scored three knockdowns in the 15th to win the IBF featherweight title.

Victor Davis KO 9 Vincent Pettway *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1990:* Years before he would briefly become a world champion, Pettway went to war with journeyman Davis in front of a roaring Blue Horizon crowd that gave the fighters a standing ovation after nearly every round. If you can find a tape of this one—complete with referee Frank Cappuccino taking a left from Pettway and being relieved for a round by alternate ref Joe O'Neil—check it out. You won't be sorry.

Gaby Canizales KO 2 Miguel "Happy" Lora *Auburn Hills, Michigan,*

March 12, 1991: These two former champions gave the fans 10 rounds worth of excitement, all in the second round. For thrill-a-minute, non-stop action featuring three knockdowns and lots of thundering left hooks, this wild brawl can't be beat.

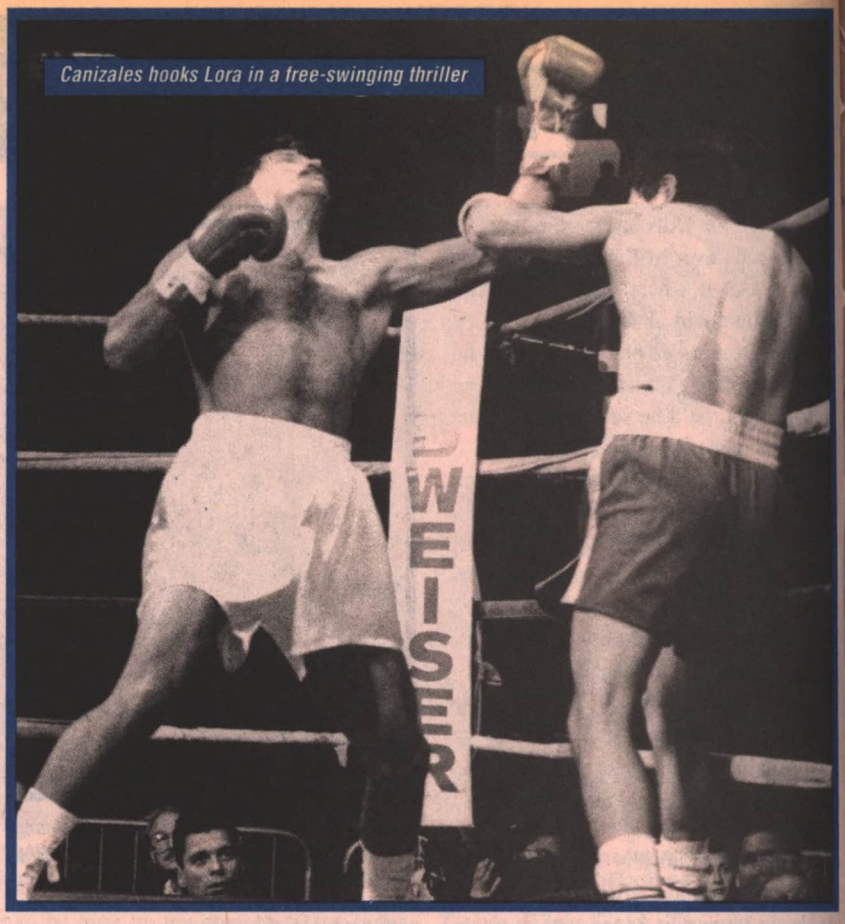
Oba Carr W 12 Livingstone Bramble *Auburn Hills, Michigan, October 8, 1991:* The up-and-coming and heavily favored Carr had everything his way until Bramble landed a bomb in the fourth. After that it was white hot all the way to the end in one of the best fights the show ever aired.

Kevin Kelley W 12 Troy Dorsey *New York, New York, February 18, 1992:* This is the one that catapulted Kelley into boxing's stratosphere. "The Flushing Flash" went right to Dorsey, and the two stood in the center of the ring and traded for 12 rounds, landing more than they missed. If you've ever wondered when Kelley started brawling more than he had to, look no further than right here.

Edgerton Marcus KO 11 Art Baylis *Virginia Beach, Virginia, December 1, 1992:* This slam-bang affair featured one of the best rounds ever on the series—round seven, in which Baylis wobbled all over the ring, absorbing bomb after bomb. Just when he looked ready to drop, he stormed back to stagger and nearly drop Marcus at the round's close. A keeper.

Skipper Kelp W 10 Adrian Stone *Ledyard, Connecticut, May 14, 1996:* Kelp, dropped in the first round and bleeding throughout the bout, roared back late to twice floor Stone and take the nod in a fierce, give-and-take brawl that had O'Grady and Albert—not to mention the crowd—hoarse by the end. Albert described Kelp's performance as "Arturo Gatti-like."

Dominick Carter KO 1 Rocky Gannon *Corpus Christi, Texas, December 10, 1996:* If you like lots of blood, guts, and knockdowns, this was your fight. If ever it looked as though the *Tuesday Night Fights* cameras had left the warm confines of the arena and strolled out to a dark alley in the middle of the night, this was it. The rematch wasn't bad either.



Canizales hooks Lora in a free-swinging thriller

Derrell Coley KO 11 Kipp Diggs *Oxnard, California, March 25, 1997:* What more can you ask for than this? Coley was dropped three times over the course of the bout and was on the cusp of being stopped any number of times. Behind on points, he turned things around with a huge right hand and the unlikely ending followed.

Darroll Wilson KO 4 Courage Tshabalala *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 3, 1997:* Foreman-Lyle, anyone? Tshabalala dropped Wilson twice early, then froze up the moment his foe started swinging back. With the crowd on its feet, Wilson, still woozy himself, chopped away until Tshabalala fell like a giant redwood. As an added bonus, Tshabalala's trainer, Lou Duva, launched into one of his patented postfight tantrums.

Anthony Jones D 10 Oba Carr *Auburn Hills, Michigan, October 7, 1997:* Take your pick with this one: the toe-to-toe action, the shifts in momentum, the superior skill shown by both men throughout, the late knockdown Jones scored when behind on points. All the factors needed to make a great fight—including a long, bitter rivalry—made this bout one of the series' best ever.

BOMB AWAY!

When a show airs over 2,000 bouts, as *Tuesday Night Fights* did during its reign, there are bound to be some spectacular knockouts. These are the ones we will remember most fondly:

Tim Witherspoon KO 1 Anders Ecklund *Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 10, 1989:* One thunderous overhand right drove Ecklund to the mat and out.

Booker Word KO 1 Anthony Hembrick *Cherokee, North Carolina, June 12, 1990:* Hembrick's choreographed entrance made Naseem Hamed's ring walk look like a funeral procession. Word shrugged his shoulders and flattened him with a right hand. In Hembrick's hometown, no less.

Lionel Butler KO 1 Tony Tubbs *Pensacola, Florida, August 18, 1992:* In the midst of a modest winning streak, jour-

Vazquez outslugs Arrozal

neyman Butler catches Tubbs with a huge overhand right and starches him.

Raul Marquez KO 1 Alex Rios *Corpus Christi, Texas, August 23, 1994:* Both were prospects until Marquez' counter hook sent Rios to dreamland. (This after Rios conducted his ring walk astride a horse.)

Rafael Ruelas KO 2 Tomas Barrientas *San Antonio, Texas, April 30, 1996:* Barrientas made it interesting until a scorching left hook launched him through the ropes and out.

Angel Vazquez KO 1 Miguel Arrozol *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 12, 1996:* Vazquez and Arrozol took turns battering one another until a crushing combination put Arrozol to sleep.

Jimmy Thunder KO 1 Crawford Grimsley *Flint, Michigan, March 18, 1997:* Ding ... BOOM! Thunder's first punch flattened Grimsley.

Maurice Harris KO 7 Jimmy Thunder *Lyndhurst, New Jersey, May 20, 1997:* Harris came out of nowhere to blast Thunder into submission, scoring one of the most picturesque kayos we've ever seen.

Thomas Tate KO 3 Anwar Oshana *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 28, 1998:* Remember that old Abbott and Costello movie where boxer "Tommy Nelson" uses Costello's head as a speedbag? Same action here.

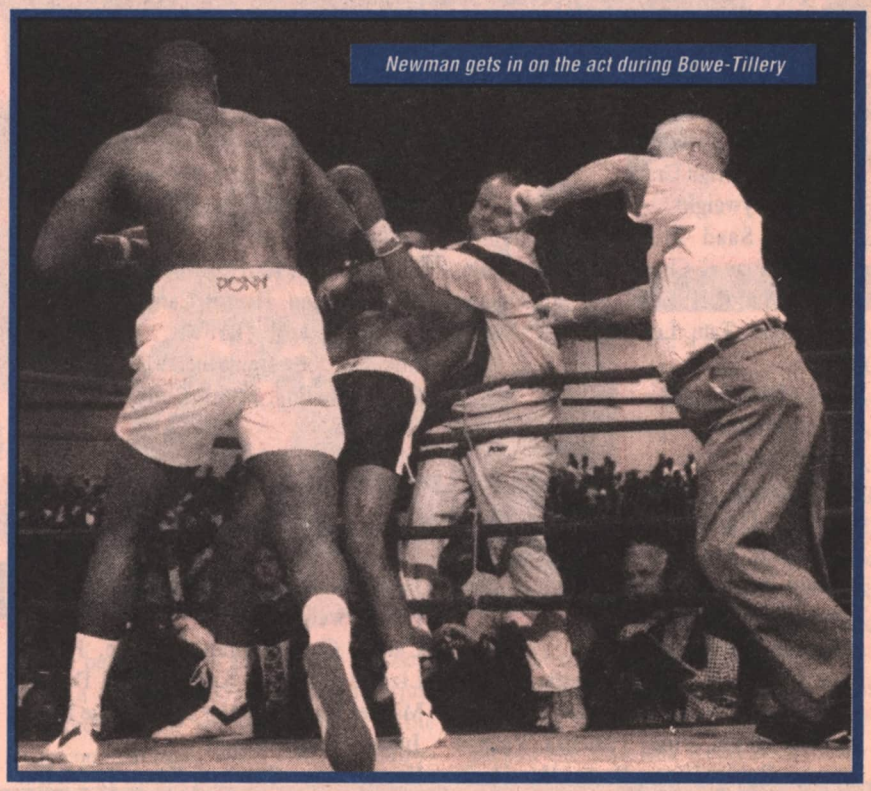
MISCELLANEOUS MADNESS

A series that lives for 17 years will have some highlights that don't fall into the usual categories, but should be recalled nonetheless:

Worst Mismatch *Joseph Kiwanuka KO 2 Heath Todd, January 28, 1997, Auburn Hills, Michigan:* Kiwanuka, a rising super middleweight, against Todd, a stubby, mid-western, underachieving junior middleweight, and a last-minute replacement at that? Terrible.

Worst In-the-Ring Display *Riddick Bowe W Disq. 1 Elijah Tillery, October 29, 1991, Washington, D.C.:* Who can forget the sight of Rock Newman grabbing Tillery in a full-nelson from outside the ropes while Bowe pummeled him before all three fell onto the apron? Runner-up: Andrew Golota biting Samson Po'uha on the neck before registering a stoppage on May 16, 1995, in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Funniest Moment *Sharmba Mitchell W 8 Rafael "Bazooka" Limon, March 8, 1990, Atlantic City, New Jersey:* Frustrated



Newman gets in on the act during Bowe-Tillery

by his younger opponent's speed and movement, veteran Limon responds the only way he can: by getting close to Mitchell and yanking his trunks down to his knees. The flabbergasted expression on Mitchell's face—not to mention the amused look on Limon's—is priceless.

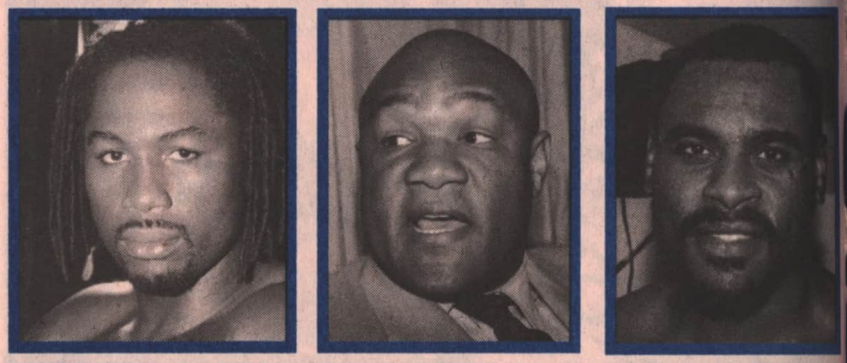
Worst Idea for a Contest *Butterbean Look-Alike Contest, 1996 Season:* Did we really need to see more Butterbeans? And is there anything worse than a Butterbean wannabe?

Most Surreal Moment *Israel "Pito" Cardona W 10 David Sample, November 11, 1997, Fort Lauderdale, Florida:* Midway through this spirited battle, the arena lights get dimmer, dimmer, dimmer still, and then … out. Power is restored after a lengthy delay, but never fully. The fighters battle the rest of the way in near darkness.

Worst Religious Holiday Idea Having all those fighters sing a verse to "The 12 Days Of Christmas." Is it a requirement that boxers be tone deaf?

A PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Even though *Tuesday Night Fights* didn't carry the dollars needed to attract the game's biggest stars in the biggest matches, the show had little trouble landing world champions, provided the opponent was right. Most of the them appeared on their way to a title or with their best days behind them, but their presence sprinkled the series with glamour. Below is a list of the world champions (past, current, and future) who appeared on *Tuesday Night Fights* cards.



Heavyweight champs Lewis, Foreman, and McCall all fought on TNF

Heavyweight
Pinklon Thomas, Bruce Seldon, George Foreman, Lennox Lewis, Oliver McCall, Mike Weaver, Riddick Bowe, Michael Dokes, Michael Moorer, Bonecrusher Smith, Tim Witherspoon, Buster Douglas, Larry Holmes, Trevor Berbick, Evander Holyfield

Cruiserweight
Jeff Lampkin, Bernard Benton, Glen McCrory, Alfonzo Ratliff, Ossie Ocasio, Nate Miller, Robert Daniels, Adolpho Washington, Uriah Grant

Light Heavyweight
Matthew Saad Muhammad, Dennis Andries, "Prince" Charles Williams, Leslie Stewart, Virgil Hill, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Frank Tate, Lou Del Valle, Bobby Czyz

Super Middleweight
Lindell Holmes, Frankie Liles, Charles Brewer, Steve Little

Middleweight
Roberto Duran, Roy Jones, Mike McCallum, Frank Tate, Iran Barkley, Bernard Hopkins, Michael Nunn, James Toney, Gerald McClellan

Junior Middleweight
Rocky Mattioli, Wilfred Benitez, Mark Medal, Lupe Aquino, Buster Drayton, Matthew Hilton, Vinny Pazienza, Vincent Pettway, Robert Hines, Darrin Van Horn, Raul Marquez, John Mugabi, Paul Vaden

Welterweight
Luis Santana, Maurice Blocker, Lloyd Honeyghan, Mark Breland, Marlon Starling, Oscar De La Hoya, Buddy McGirt, Pernell Whitaker, Sugar Ray Leonard, Aaron Davis, Jorge Vaca, Charles Murray, Simon Brown, Thomas Hearns

Junior Welterweight
Saoul Mamby, Gene Hatcher, Gary Hinton, Frankie Randall, Johnny Bumphus, Billy Costello, Rafael Pineda, Joe Manley, Bruce Curry, Kostya Tszyu, Julio Cesar Chavez, Jake Rodriguez

Lightweight
Ray Mancini, Harry Arroyo, Jimmy Paul, Greg Haugen, Hector Camacho, Charlie "Choo Choo" Brown, Livingstone Bramble, Joey Gamache, Vinny Pazienza, Rafael Ruelas, Stevie Johnston, Shane Mosley

Junior Lightweight
Brian Mitchell, Bazooka Limon, Arturo Gatti, Rocky Lockridge, Gabe Ruelas, John-John Molina, Tracy Harris Patterson, Jesse James Leija, Genaro Hernandez

Featherweight
Calvin Grove, Juan LaPorte, Hector Lizarraga, Kevin Kelley, Troy Dorsey, Manuel Medina, Junior Jones, Jorge Paez

Junior Featherweight
Hector Acero-Sanchez, Kennedy McKinney, Vuyani Bungu, Thierry Jacobs, Wilfredo Vazquez, Lupe Pintor, Victor Callejas, Loris Stecca, Seung Hoon Lee, Luis Mendoza

Bantamweight
Juan Solis, Jorge Lujan, Albert Davila, Richard Sandoval, Greg Richardson, Gaby Canizales, Orlando Canizales, Wayne McCullough, Mbulelo Botile, Miguel Lora

Junior Bantamweight
Sugar Baby Rojas, Johnny Tapia

Flyweight
Danny Romero, Mark Johnson

Junior Flyweight
Michael Carbajal

CITY-BY-CITY

No one could ever say that the *Tuesday Night Fights* didn't get around. These are the cities, states, and countries the show aired from during its 17-year run:

Akron, Ohio
Albany, New York
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Anaheim, California
Atlanta, Georgia
Atlantic City, New Jersey
Auburn Hills, Michigan
Augusta, Georgia
Austin, Texas

(Continued on page 62)

Really Hard Punch ... *Really Soft Lips*

OSCAR MAKES LEGS QUIVER IN AND OUT OF THE RING

De La Hoya had a lot easier time disposing of mandatory challenger Patrick Charpentier than he did handling the horde of female admirers that followed him wherever he went in El Paso, where Oscarmania ran rampant the week of the fight.

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Photo by Chris Farina

By Nigel Collins

It was almost midnight when the car screeched to a halt in the middle of the block in downtown El Paso, Texas. The door flew open, and out jumped a pretty young woman, a look of ecstasy on her face. "Oscar, Oscar," she yelled, abandoning the vehicle in her rush to join a group of about 50 other shrieking women clustered around a large white bus decorated with images of Oscar De La Hoya. The Oscarmobile had just backed into the service entrance of the Camino Real Hotel, where HBO was throwing a party to celebrate his knockout of Patrick Charpentier earlier in the evening. Oscarmania had reached Beatlesque proportions earlier that week in El Paso, creating a series of surreal scenes in which De La Hoya was treated more like a rock star than a prize fighter.

Several days before the fight, in excess of 1,000 fans, most of them female, packed the Carolina Recreation Center

gym to witness a supposedly secret workout. More than 600 people attended a pre-fight press conference the next day. Among them was Sadie Pedraza, a senior at Socorro High School, who was lucky enough to sneak a kiss while presenting De La Hoya with a bag of food from Chico's Tacos, an El Paso landmark. Pedraza, who said that De La Hoya's lips were "really soft," was the envy of the approximately 1,500 swooning admirers waiting outside for a glimpse of their heart's desire. "Oscar, I wanna have your baby," yelled one women. "Oscar, I won't ask for child support," screamed another.

The scene at the weigh-in was almost as chaotic. The ever-present gaggle of girls was waiting in the parking lot of the El Paso Hilton, and police had to shoo them to one side so that the Oscarmobile could roll into the parking lot. Throughout it all De La Hoya behaved like the perfect Prince Charming, flashing his million-dollar smile and spending as much time as possible mingling with his fans and signing autographs. He was obviously having the time of his life. Who wouldn't be?

The phenomenon of boxer as teen idol is unprecedented. True, fighters have always attracted more members of the opposite sex than the average guy, but not even a pretty boy superstar like Sugar Ray Leonard reached the status curren enjoyed by De La Hoya. Leonard was m ried during the peak of his popularity, a that spoiled the sort of fantasy that imp teenage girls to put on their best little bl dress and compete with hundreds, som times thousands, of other girls for th hero's attention. Moreover, Leonard charm seemed programed at times, wh "The Golden Boy" comes across as enti ly natural when interacting with the publi

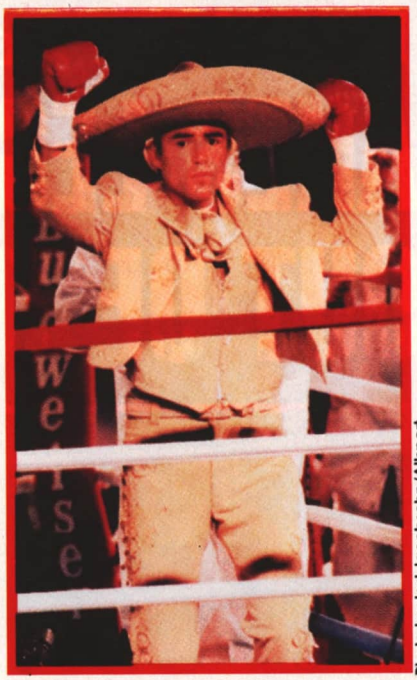


Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

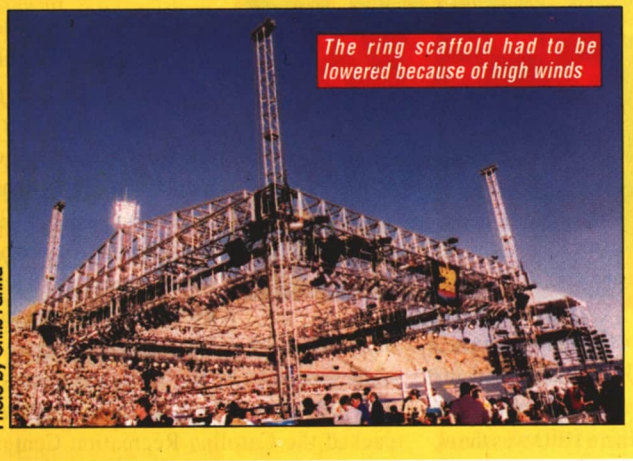
"The Golden Boy" pleased his many Hispanic fans by wearing a mariachi suit into the ring.

"He's so sincere, such a nice guy," sa Miss El Paso 1996, Michelle Rios, on han at the weigh-in to give both De La Hoy and Charpentier a bunch of red roses "You could tell by his eyes that he wa kind of tired, but he still took time to tal with the people. He's cute, but he's also down to earth. I think that's the reason he' so popular."

Even Muhammad Ali wasn't The Greatest in this department. Although th idol of millions and extremely popular with women, he was also controversial hated by large segments of the population during the early part of his career. By the time Ali was beloved by all, he was too old to be a teenage heart throb. De La Hoya is

OSCAR'S RECIPE FOR FRENCH TOAST

The early arriving crowd at the Sun Bowl, picturesquely nestled in the Franklin Mountains that surround El Paso, was in a festive mood. While dueling mariachi bands entertained high-priced ticketholders under a large tent pitched near ringside, fans in the stands tossed around beach balls and did the wave. Hand-lettered signs were everywhere, many of them incorporating both the star of the show's name and the initials of the network broadcasting the fight. Variations of "Hot Babe Oscar" were very popular. When De La Hoya arrived at the stadium, it was shown on a giant Astrovision screen in the end zone, eliciting the first of many deafening roars from the crowd.



The ring scaffold had to be lowered because of high winds

Photo by Chris Farina

Shortly after the end of the first preliminary bout, the scaffold that held the television lights began to sway precariously as high winds ripped through the stadium. Suddenly, there were shouts of "Everybody out" as security evacuated the ringside press section in fear that the whole structure would come tumbling down. The safety hazard was rectified by lowering the lights, but not everybody was happy with the solutions. With the light platform much closer to the ring than normal, the view of thousands of paying customers was impeded. Many fans who held tickets more than halfway up the stadium were unable to see the fighters' heads. But there was no acceptable alternative. When asked how close the show was to being called off, Ross Greenberg, senior vice president and executive producer of HBO Sports, held his thumb and forefinger about half-an-inch apart and said, "This close."

But even a headless De La Hoya is better than no De La Hoya, and when "The Golden Boy" made his ringwalk dressed in a golden brown mariachi outfit, the faithful multitude exploded in a wall of noise that rivaled anything ever heard at a rock concert. Despite the fiesta-like atmosphere, a deadly serious expression had replaced De La Hoya's famous smile. It was time to go to work.

25 and comes with no such baggage; he's gracious in victory, and except for a few ill-chosen remarks about black fighters, politically correct at all times.

During fight week in El Paso it was virtually impossible to avoid the omnipresent image of De La Hoya. Larger-than-life banners of him posing provocatively with his shirt unbuttoned, a dreamy look on his handsome face, were everywhere. Duck into a bar for a cool brew and there was Oscar's picture on posters, reminding you that *"Respeto y Control"* is paramount when consuming alcoholic beverages. Turn on the evening news for the latest De La Hoya update, and you discovered that even the weather had been Oscarized with a small photo of the WBC welterweight champion next to the forecast for fight night. Boxer as logo?

El Paso's love affair with De La Hoya began in 1996 when he visited the city during a promotional tour for the first Julio Cesar Chavez match, but few would have guessed that by the time he returned for the Charpentier fight his popularity would have grown to such gigantic proportions. More than 30,000 tickets were sold the

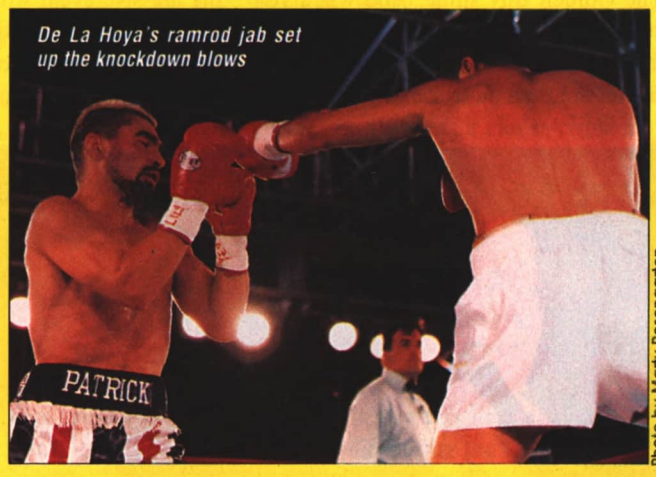
Photo by Chris Farina

De La Hoya's punching power was too much for the outclassed Charpentier to handle, and the French challenger was saved from further punishment after being knocked down three times in the third round.

Charpentier, 27-5-1 (23), looked in great shape, but his fighting ability did not measure up to his well-muscled torso. He kept his hands high during the first round, cautiously peering out at De La Hoya from behind his gloves. As soon as De La Hoya, 147, found the range for his jab in the second, the fight, if it really could be called such, was as good as over. Lead lefts began piercing Charpentier's guard with regularity, and anybody who had ever seen De La Hoya fight knew that the bombs would follow directly. The first landed less than a minute into the third, when a right followed by a sharp hook sent the ill-equipped challenger to the floor.

Seemingly more surprised than hurt, Charpentier, 146, quickly regained his feet, but De La Hoya soon floored him again, this time with an exquisite left uppercut. The man from Vimoutier, France, wasn't so speedy regaining his feet the second time, and when he did, it was only a matter of a seconds before he stepped into the path of a rocket-like right to the chin. The stricken fighter fell forward, unconscious well before his limp body collided with the canvas for a third time. Referee Laurence Cole (USA) instantly stopped the mismatch 1:56 into the round without bothering to count.

The fleeting encounter was little more than a brief interruption of the lovefest that had been going on all week in El Paso. And De La Hoya, 28-0 (23), was moved to grab the microphone and address his delirious fans after his fourth successful defense of the WBC welterweight title.



De La Hoya's ramrod jab set up the knockdown blows

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

"Thank you very much for all your support," he said. "I fought great. I thank the city of El Paso for giving me the opportunity to fight before you beautiful fans. And I promise you one more thing—I will be back."

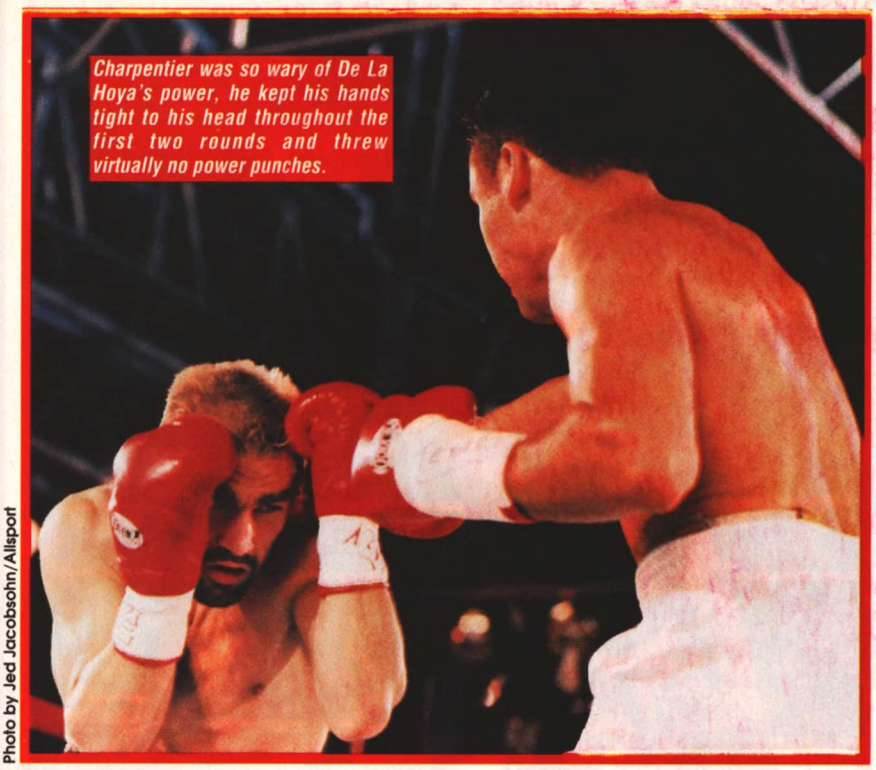
In a classic understatement, a groggy Charpentier explained that "it was the headshots" that did him in. Others blame the WBC for making such an ordinary fighter its number-one contender.

Television: HBO

Promoter: Top Rank Inc. & Buzzard Productions

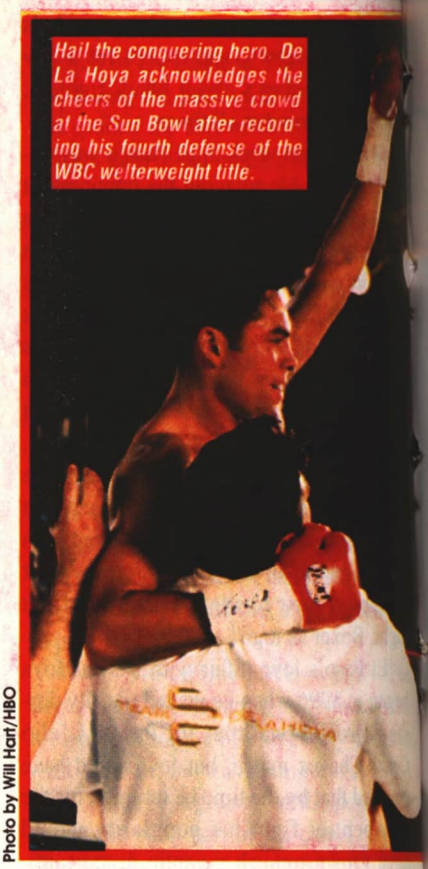
(6-13-98)

—NC



Charpentier was so wary of De La Hoya's power, he kept his hands tight to his head throughout the first two rounds and threw virtually no power punches.

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport



Hail the conquering hero. De La Hoya acknowledges the cheers of the massive crowd at the Sun Bowl after recording his fourth defense of the WBC welterweight title.

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

first day they went on sale, and by the time De La Hoya climbed into the ring at the Sun Bowl (home of the University Texas El Paso's Fightin' Miners), 45,368 fans had paid anywhere from $31 to $329 to see The Golden Boy shine. And when you consider the fact that hardly anybody gave the challenger a ghost of a chance, those figures are even more startling. Even with such a limited opponent in the opposite corner, the crowd would have been larger if the local cable TV company hadn't lifted the blackout.

No one was more aware of the impact the massive event would have on De La Hoya's career than Bjorn Rebney, a Los Angeles-based attorney who has handled De La Hoya's marketing since October '94. Rebney also represents Ray Leonard and has worked with the San Francisco 49ers, Steve Young, and Hakeem Olajuwon in the past. He sees what took place in El Paso as a "great snapshot of what's good about boxing, an event that transcends the sport."

Rebney also knows that it was fabulous for business.

"Events like El Paso open doors. You get your full calf in there, not just your toe," said Rebney. "People see what happened here, and say, 'Wow! You know what? That was a spectacular event.'"

Oscarmania didn't happen overnight. Nor did it happen by accident. In order to increase his client's fan base, Rebney has gone beyond the vehicles normally associated with boxing. And now that groundwork is paying off.

"You might think we'd shoot for *Sports Illustrated*, the boxing magazines, or *ESPN*," said Rebney. "But we want to create cross-culture and cross-gender appeal, so we also place Oscar in *Bazaar* or *Cosmopolitan*, magazines with younger demographics."

Photo by Chris Farina

De La Hoya seems to be getting a kick out of Bob Arum at the postfight press conference. The promoter said that The Golden Boy was willing to take on all challengers, including Felix Trinidad.

SHORT REIGN FOR A SHORT CHAMP

Stevie "Li'l But Bad" Johnston finally ran up against somebody too big to handle in the main supporting bout on the De La Hoya-Charpentier show at the Sun Bowl, losing his unbeaten record and the WBC lightweight championship to six-foot Cesar Bazan via split decision.

"He's so tall, I just couldn't get to him," lamented the 5'5" ex-champion. "It made the fight very hard for me. It was really tough."

Johnston, who was making his fourth defense of the title, not only had difficulty getting past Bazan's reach, he didn't accomplish much when he did work his way inside. Trainer Miguel Diaz wanted him to bend his knees and drive hard shots to the challenger's body, but Johnston lacked the punch to wear down the larger man. "Dig, dig, dig," implored Diaz, but as the sloppy, mauling bout progressed, it was the challenger who grew stronger.

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

New champ Bazan was too big for "Li'l But Bad"

It was a tricky fight to score, as neither man was ever in danger of going down, and many rounds were close and uneventful. Johnston, Denver, Colorado, did score frequently to the midsection and also popped in a fair number of southpaw jabs, but never looked dominant, even in the early going.

The 23-year-old Bazan, 32-2-1 (23), began to catch Johnston, 25, coming in with slashing punches the second half of the fight, and generally got the better of all the pushing and wrestling that made for such an unappealing encounter. The pro-Bazan crowd didn't like the fight, but it loved the result. As far the fans were concerned, the fight's only redeeming aspect was the narrow decision in favor of the challenger from Mexico City.

Judge Oren Shellenberger (USA) scored the fight for Johnston, 116-112, but was overruled by Omar Mintun (Mexico) and David Harris (USA), who both voted for Bazan by a 115-113 margin. THE RING scored it 116-114 for Johnston. The referee was Lupe Garcia of Mexico.

"It was a hard fight, very hard," said Bazan. "But I felt I won. I felt I fought a better fight. He never hurt me, but he got me with several headbutts, but they were all accidental."

For Johnston, 24-1 (13), the loss was a career-crippler. There had been talk of a unification with IBF counterpart Shane Mosley, but now Johnston will have to scramble to reestablish himself.

The bout was also part of HBO's telecast.

(6-13-98)

—NC

De La Hoya has already earned millions in endorsements, and new deals with Levi and EA Sports—manufacturers of "Knockout," a new boxing video game due to hit the market in September—will bring in millions more. But according to Rebney, the biggest benefit of sports marketing isn't the money the fighter receives from the clients he represents. "The real benefit comes when he fights," explained Rebney. "The exposure wins over the casual sports fan, which in turn increases the pay-per-view buy rate. That gives a fighter leverage when negotiating purses and means more dollars when Oscar steps into the ring."

Does this mean, now that De La Hoya can fill football stadiums fighting no-hopers like Charpentier, that we'll have to get used to a steady diet of mismatches? Thankfully, the answer is no. Boxing fans aren't the only one's who want to see De La Hoya fight Felix Trinidad. Team De La Hoya, Bob Arum, and Rebney are all eager for a superfight and the super payday that will accompany it. A bout with Trinidad and the ensuing hoopla would also be another significant step toward the next—and most elite—marketing plateau.

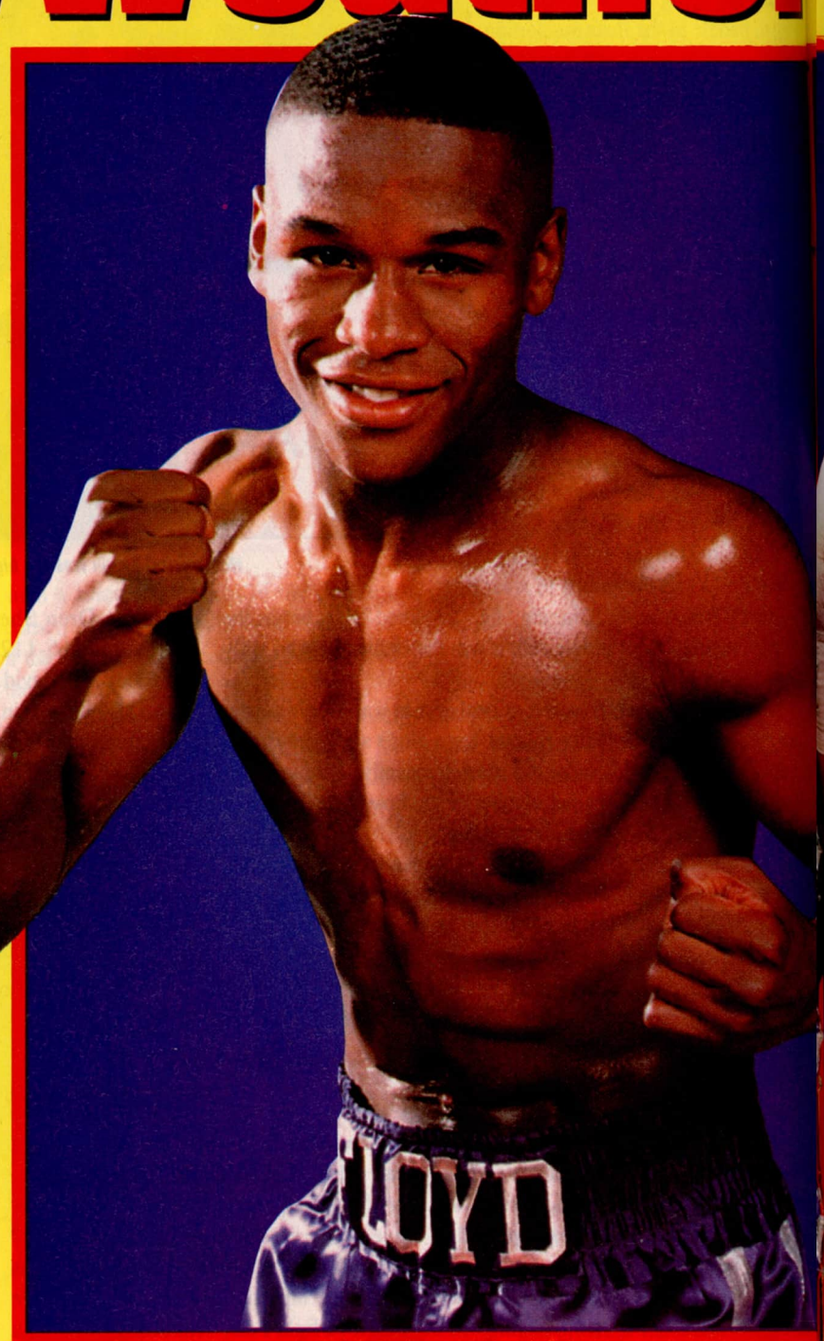
"There's never been, and probably never will be, another like Michael Jordan. What he's done is unheard of," said Rebney, discussing the relatively small pantheon of athletes who have become marketing icons. "Tiger Woods is big, but he doesn't generate the kind of enthusiasm that Oscar does. One or two huge fights and Oscar could be right there. He's one of those people with a high intelligence level, and bright clients—guys who get it—are always the best to work with."

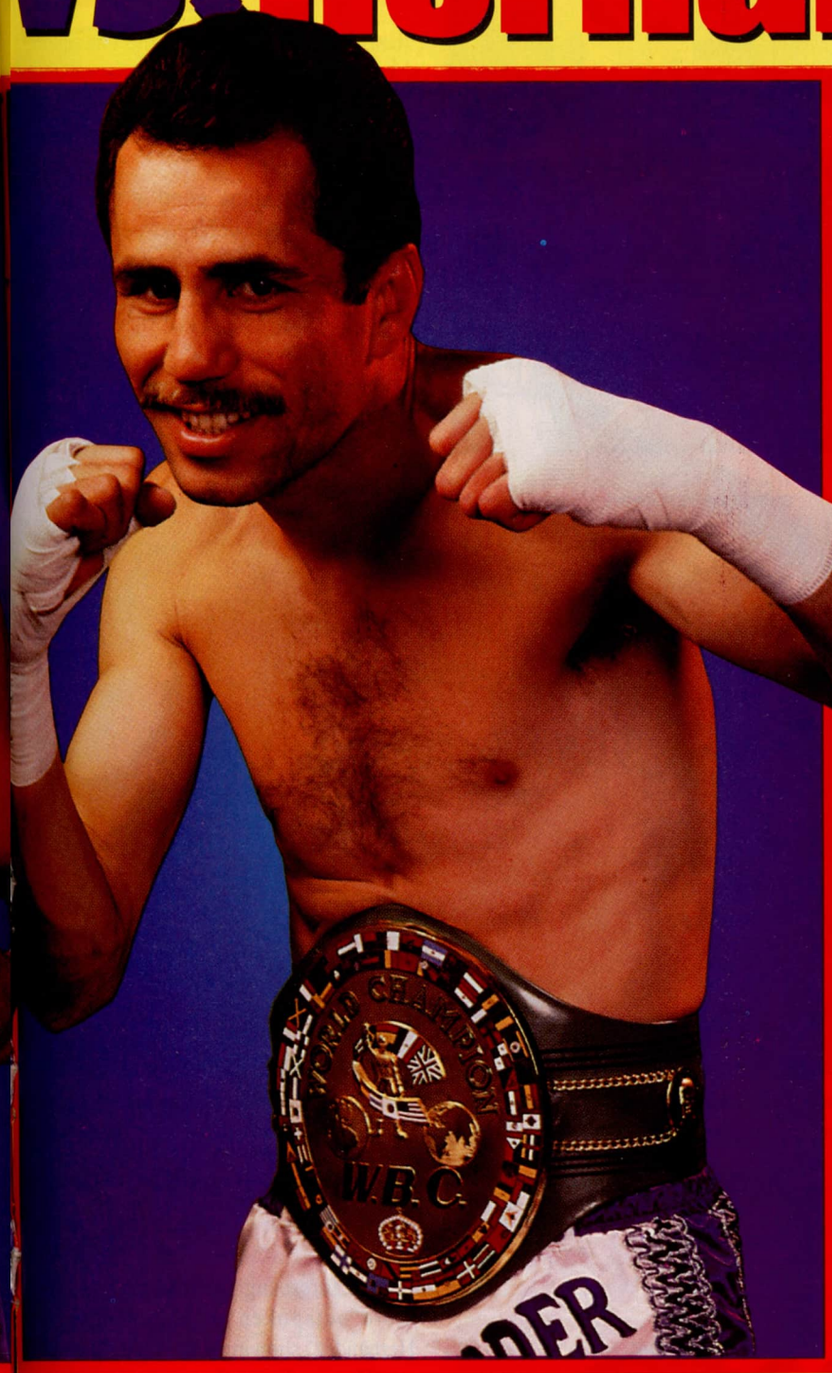
Of course, the continued growth of Oscarmania is predicated on De La Hoya continuing to win. Arum is so confident of his star's superiority, he offered both

(Continued on page 64)

Mayweather vs. Hernandez

HAS DAD PUSHED FLOYD TO THE TOP... OR OVER THE EDGE?





By Eric Raskin

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has the second widest eyes in boxing; the widest eyes belong to his father, Floyd Sr. The younger Mayweather wants it all, and he wants it now. The elder Mayweather wants more than everything, and he wanted it yesterday.

There's no question that Floyd Jr. has all the tools necessary to be one of the great ones: dazzling hand speed, sensational movement, knockout power in both fists, and so much confidence you wonder where he finds room for it in his 130-pound frame. His father, released from prison in April '97 after a 5½-year stint for drug trafficking, is now his manager/trainer, and he's leading his son down a dangerous path. With less than 20 fights under his belt, "Pretty Boy Floyd" is being paired with the best junior lightweight in the world, WBC champion Genaro Hernandez, in a fight much more make-or-break than any 21-year-old prospect should ever have to concern himself with.

"People say I'm moving him up too fast, but I say we ain't moving fast enough," Floyd Sr. said. "If he wasn't ready for Genaro Hernandez, I'd be the first one to jump and say we don't need that fight right now. I'm the one that chose this fight. I call the shots. And I told my son to whup his [butt]. People talk about Genaro Hernandez, *the legend*. Hernandez is a [expletive] bum."

It's a fine line between confidence and cockiness, and whereas Floyd Sr. is clearly on the more abrasive side of that line, Floyd Jr. comes off a bit less salty, though undeniably arrogant.

"I want to be world champion," the '96 Olympic bronze medalist said. "I want to be the best. I'm just in this sport to be known as a legend. I don't care about being nice—I'm gonna treat Hernandez like a preliminary fighter."

The overwhelming brashness of the Mayweathers is not unreasonable, given Floyd Jr.'s exceptional abilities, but talent alone does not assure him of a win over Hernandez. The WBC super featherweight titleholder from South Central Los Angeles is one of the most skilled boxers in the world, and the only blemishes on his 38-1-1 (17) record are a first-round technical draw in 1993 against Raul Perez (which Hernandez quickly righted with an eighth-round kayo in the rematch) and a loss to Oscar De La Hoya at 135 pounds. At his ideal weight of 130, "Chicanito" has never been beaten.

Hernandez' full arsenal was on display in his last fight, a May 16 defense on a windy night in Indio, California, against tough Puerto Rican contender Carlos Gerena. The classy 32-year-old Hernandez, 129¼, took the 27-year-old Gerena, 129, to school from the very start, landing at will and masterfully anticipating counters in the first round. The champion altered his strategy in the second round, lying on the ropes and patiently countering while Gerena wore himself out with his busy attack. Over the next six rounds, Hernandez picked his spots beautifully, allowing Gerena to look foolish playing the role of aggressor. Chicanito's lead left hook was consistently on the money, and what the veteran lacks in punching power, he more than made up for in guile and ring smarts.

Still, the champion ran into a rocky stretch late in the fight, when a clash of heads at the end of the eighth round sent him reeling to his corner in obvious pain. Early in the ninth, Gerena hurt Hernandez with a punch thrown while referee James Jenkin (USA) was trying to separate the fighters, and after a warning from the official, the challenger went on the attack. A sensational back-and-forth rally ensued, and Hernandez punctuated the memorable

Photo by Tom Hogan

Hernandez is the consummate boxer, and h ability to jab, move, and generally outthi Gerena left the Puerto Rican confused an frustrated. Hernandez captured an easy 12 round unanimous decision to retain the WBC super featherweight title.

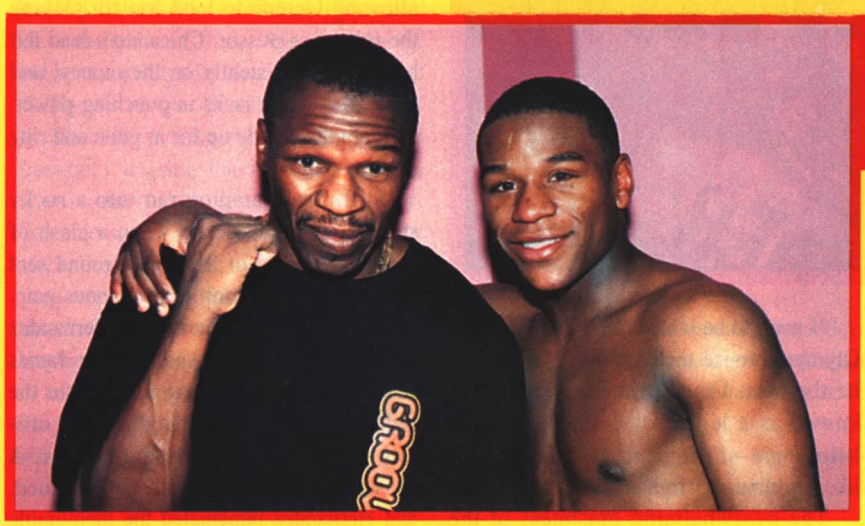
RING had it 117-111 for the champion Nonetheless, what seemed to many like a almost flawless performance by Hernandez didn't impress or frighten his next opponent one bit.

"He didn't look good at all," Mayweather said. "He don't move his head, he gets hit a lot, he got caught with his back to the ropes. He eats punches all day, and he got tired at the end of that fight! I know I can go the distance easy. I'm younger, I'm stronger. I can be the aggressor or fight on the move, go forward or backward. I got the total package. I'm gonna knock him out."

Mayweather has the skills to back up his cockiness, as Bobby Geipert found out when he was blasted out by "Pretty Boy Floyd" in one round last April. Whether Mayweather's arrogance will be an asset or a hindrance against a veteran like Hernandez is difficult to predict.

round with a pair of right hands that left Gerena somewhat shaken at the bell.

Hernandez wisely slowed the pace down over the last three rounds, not allowing Gerena, 28-2 (24), to goad him into another brawl. The challenger did enough to win the 12th, but it was too late to make the scores close. Henry Elesperu (USA), Mazakazu Uchida (Japan), and Ismael Quinones Falu (Puerto Rico) all ruled in favor of Hernandez, by scores of 117-111, 116-113, and 117-113, respectively. THE



Floyd Sr. takes full responsibility for the decision to face Hernandez after less than 20 pro fights. The confident father said of the October showdown, "It is gonna be exciting ... for as long as it lasts."

Not surprisingly, Floyd Sr. was even more outspoken in his criticism of Hernandez' showing against Gerena.

"Hernandez ain't got no power, no legs, no head movement," the elder Mayweather said. "My son's got the better skills, period. He's got the power, he's younger than him. My son, in all honesty, is one of the best fighters out there today.

(Continued on page 58)

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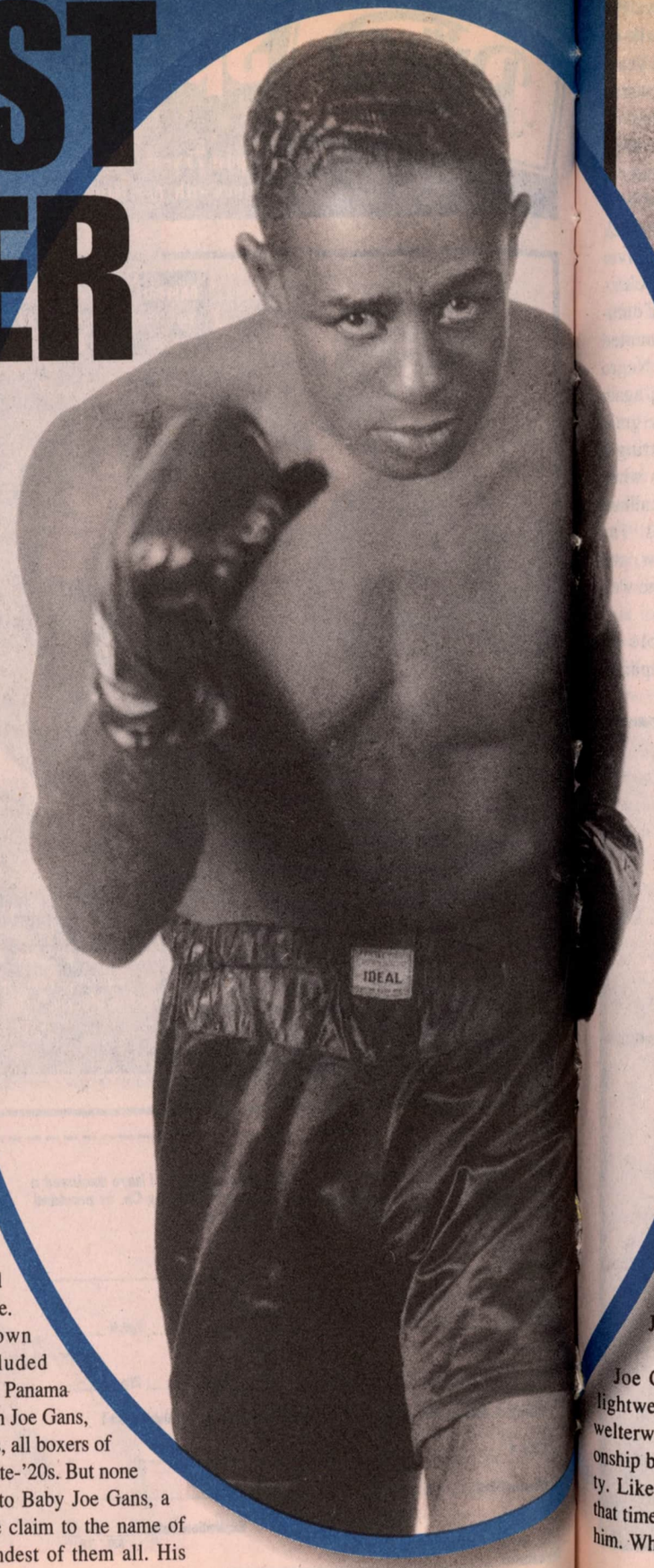
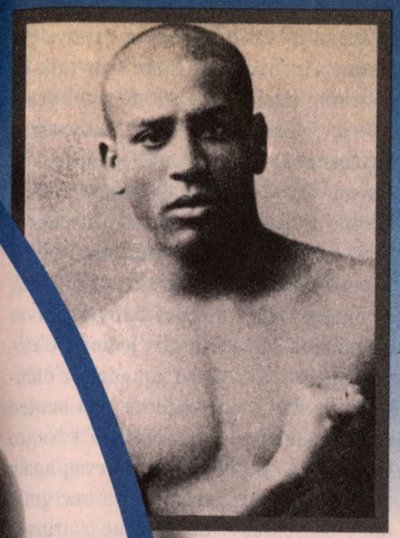
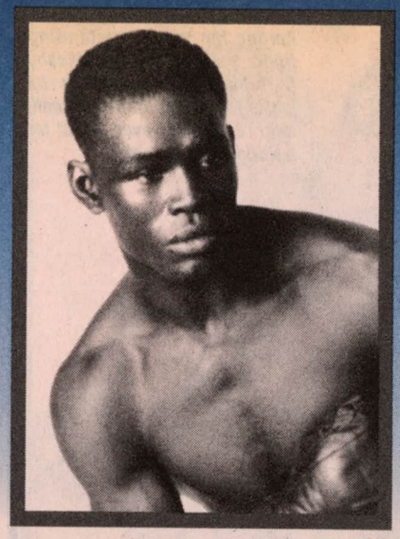
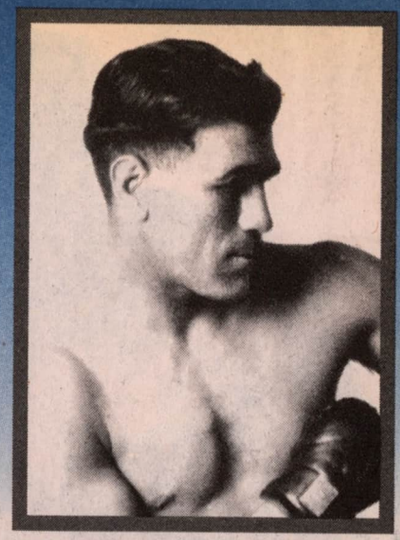
NOT JUST ANOTHER JOE

This Gans Was More Than A Great Fighter









The original Joe Gans (left) had many namesakes, including Panama Joe Gans (center) and Italian Joe Gans.

By Pete Ehrmann

About three-quarters of a century ago, you probably could throw a rock in the direction of just about any ring in North America and hit somebody trying to palm himself off as a fistic descendant of the champion they called "The Old Master." Joe Gans, who fought from 1891-1909, is still considered by some historians the best to ever wear the lightweight crown, and two years after his death in 1910, there was no shortage of fighters trying to identify with his greatness and legend by adopting his name.

The best known among them included Canadian Joe Gans, Panama Joe Gans, Allentown Joe Gans, and Italian Joe Gans, all boxers of decent skill in the late-'20s. But none of them compared to Baby Joe Gans, a 140-pounder whose claim to the name of Gans was the soundest of them all. His manager called Baby Joe "the daddy of 'em all!"

"There'll never be another Gans, but my boy is almost an imitation," said Larry Lichenstein of the boxer born as Gerald Slaughter. It was a self-serving pronouncement, of course, but it also had behind it the perspective of his 30-plus years as one of boxing's shrewdest observers. Lichenstein knew class when he saw it, having not only known the original Joe Gans, but also having managed such champions from earlier times as middleweight Cyclone Johnny Thompson, lightweight Ad Wolgast, and welterweight Jimmy Clabby.

From 1926 through 1933, Baby Joe Gans was ranked among the top lightweights, junior welterweights, and welterweights. He never won a championship because he never got the opportunity. Like so many other black fighters of that time, racial prejudice was used against him. When that wasn't enough, there were guns and threats. But Gans never became embittered, and what he accomplished when his ring career was over stands as a monument to his life that few recognized world champions could claim. Today, almost 40 years after his death in 1959, the name and deeds of Baby Joe Gans are still revered in the community that was measurably improved by him.

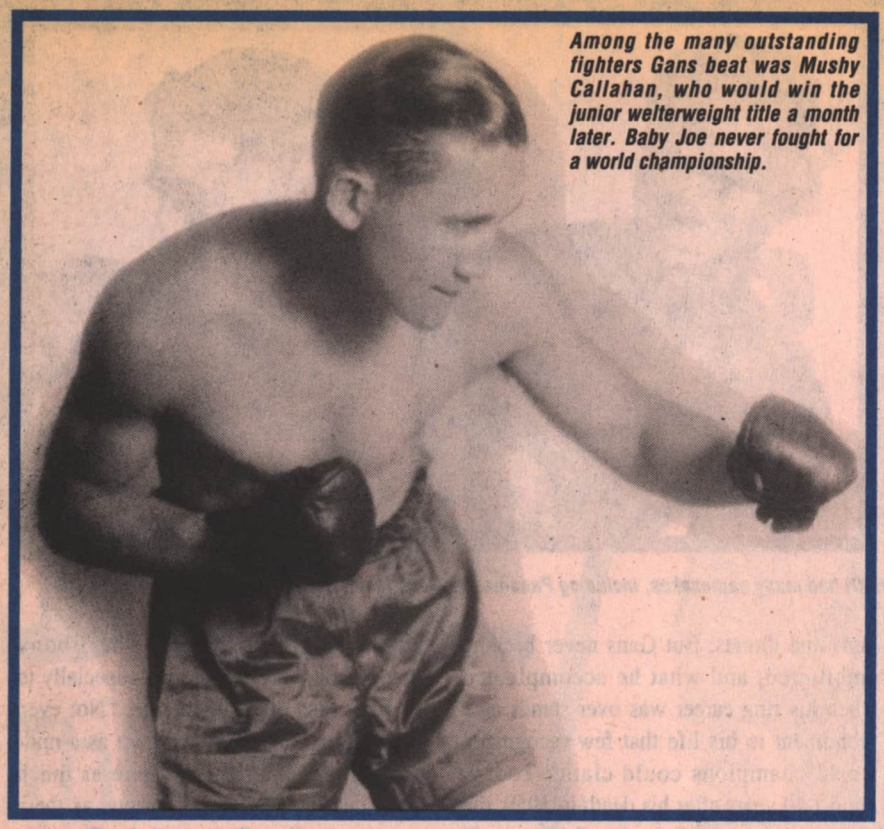
Gans was born in El Paso, Texas, on December 4, 1900, and his family moved to Los Angeles when he was a boy. He began boxing at nine, and at age 14 he won the local Newsboys' Tournament and with it, thanks to the precocious ring attributes he exhibited winning the amateur title, the name that he would use for the rest of his life.

A professional at 16, Gans became an immediate sensation along Central Avenue in the heart of Los Angeles' "colored" district. But like society in general, boxing was an openly segregated enterprise in the Roaring '20s, and for all his talent, Gans' appearances in his adopted hometown were largely confined to the smaller venues until his big break came on August 24, 1926. That is when the city's top junior welterweight, Mushy Callahan, finally climbed into the ring with him. A brilliant boxer with a punch developed working as a iron worker at the Axelson Machine Company, Gans thoroughly outpointed the man who, just one month later, would defeat Pinkey Mitchell for the world 140-pound belt.

Over the next few years, Gans became the top drawing card, black or white, in the City of Angels. Called "The Ebony Thunderbolt," he was an idol, especially to the fight fans of his own race. "Not even when Tiger Flowers boxed here as a middleweight champion was there as much excitement along Central Avenue as there is now over Gans," reported the *Times* on December 11, 1928, before Baby Joe beat Charley Rosen at the Olympic Auditorium. "Booster clubs have been formed for him. Posters and banners were paraded along the Avenue in his honor." Students in the Sunday school classes taught by the humble boxer at the Colored Baptist Church bolstered the crowds at Gans' fights. So did members of several women's clubs. When he fought, local arenas reverberated to the cheers of "Go, Baby, Go!"

Earlier in 1928, eastern fight fans had found out what the excitement was about when Lichenstein took Gans to New York City. He lost questionable decisions in the first of 16 bouts he had in Gotham, but THE RING still ranked Baby Joe second in the 140-pound division, and the magazine's Eddie Borden wrote that Gans was "shining with all the brilliance of a genuine gem." In 106 fights up to then, the 23-year-old Gans had lost only five times.

In the last match of his six-month Eastern tour, The Ebony Thunderbolt and fellow contender Joe Glick of Brooklyn drew almost 19,000 fans to Madison Square Garden on November 15, 1928. Glick took the early rounds, but Gans came roaring back in the second half of the fight. Glick got the decision, but the AP score sheet gave Gans five rounds and



Among the many outstanding fighters Gans beat was Mushy Callahan, who would win the junior welterweight title a month later. Baby Joe never fought for a world championship.

Glick four, and Mayor Jimmy Walker, a spectator at the fight, personally expressed his dissatisfaction with the decision to promoter Tex Rickard.

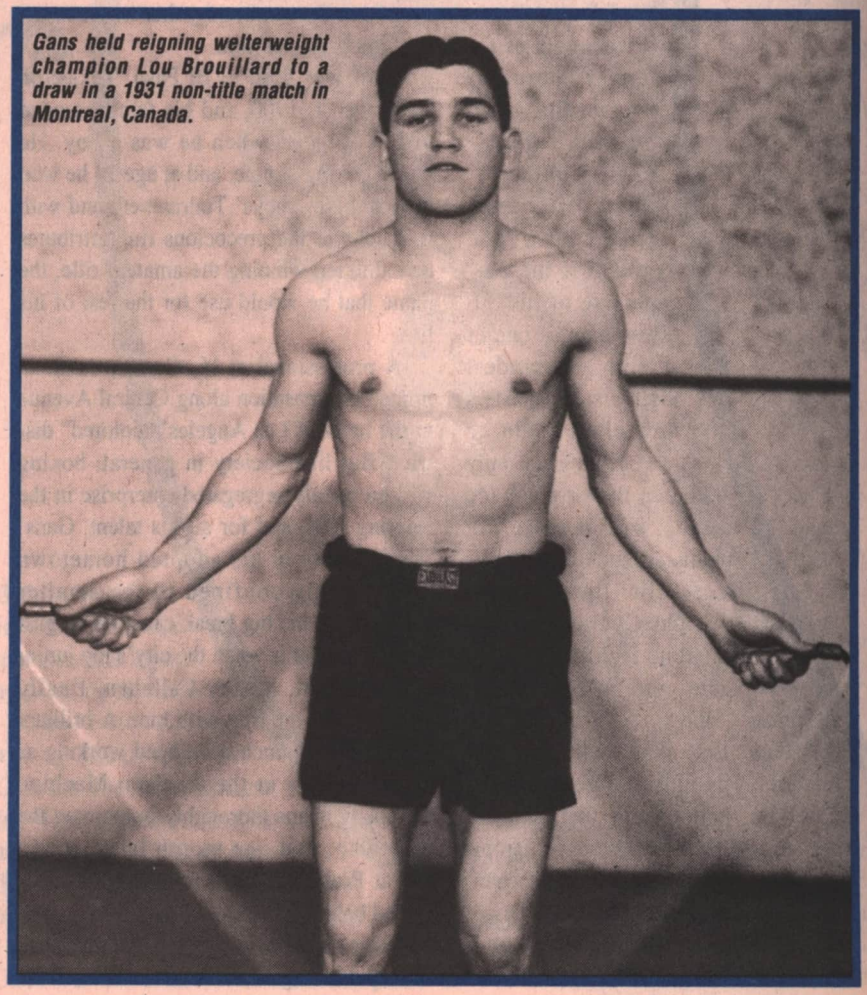
Nevertheless, it was a prosperous eastern jaunt for the Los Angeles favorite, who was greeted with marching bands and a parade along Central Avenue when he stepped out of a Santa Fe line coach at 3 p.m. on December 1, 1928. Gans returned home with a dozen trunks and, according to Lichenstein, had become "the best-dressed fighter in America."

A week later, a crown of sorts was added to Gans' wardrobe. When Mushy Callahan's manager announced that the junior welterweight champion was all through with boxing, Lichenstein sent letters to boxing commissions around the country claiming the belt for Gans, citing Baby Joe's win over Callahan two years earlier. The other top 140-pound contender was New York's Ruby Goldstein, who, Lichenstein said, Gans was perfectly willing to box "if there is any dispute to his claim to Callahan's title." At the same time, Lichenstein pointed out that Goldstein had refused to box Gans during the latter's Big Apple sojourn. It became a moot point, however, when Callahan unretired early the next year.

Sammy Mandell was the lightweight champion then, and there was talk of matching him with Gans. Several years earlier, Mandell and Gans had sparred together in L.A., and Mandell ended up on the canvas twice. Thus the talk of risking his title against Gans remained just that.

In 1930, in its annual rankings of boxers by former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey, THE RING put Baby Joe over champion Callahan in the junior welterweight class. Gans also got another dubious title that year when he was named among THE RING's "Selection Of Negro Champions," a distinction achieved again in '31. But in his pursuit of the true grail, the closest Baby Joe came to getting a reigning titleholder in the ring was when he faced 147-pound champ Lou Brouillard in Montreal on December 15, 1931. The non-title bout was declared a draw, and Gans was installed as the number-one welterweight contender.

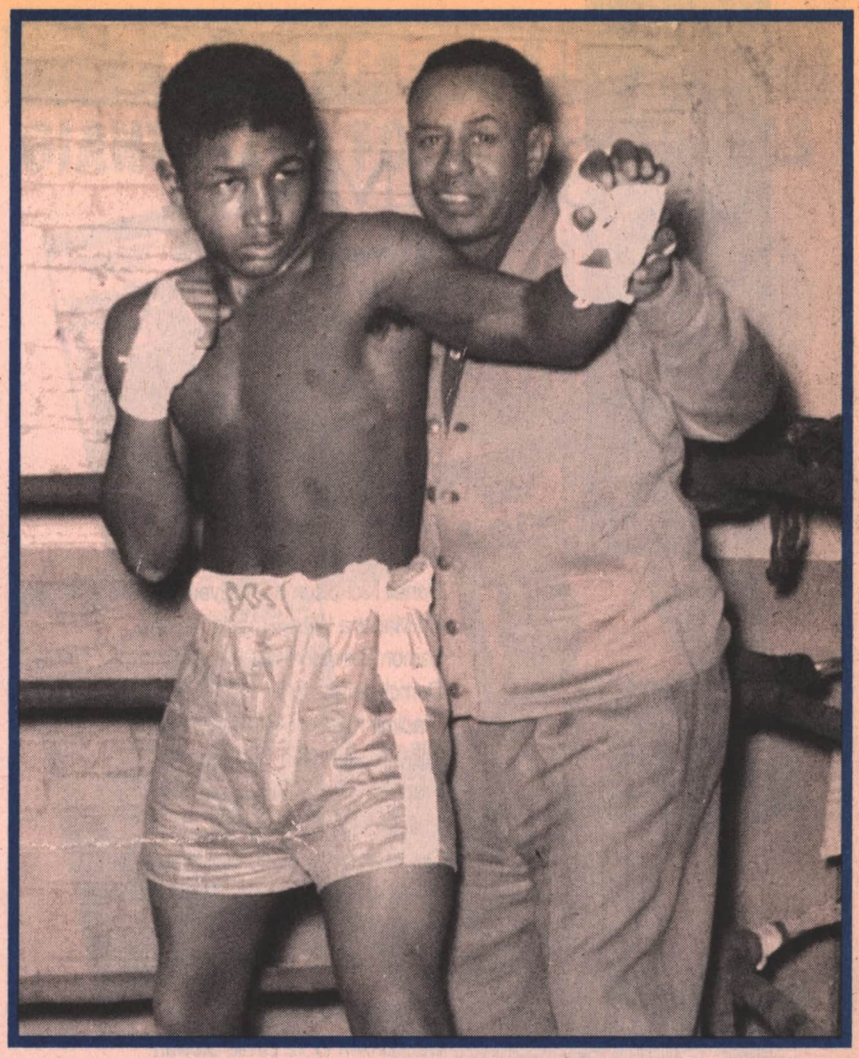
The fact that even "The Bible Of Boxing" was moved to anoint separate



Gans held reigning welterweight champion Lou Brouillard to a draw in a 1931 non-title match in Montreal, Canada.

champions according to race is an indication of what black fighters were up against in Gans' time. Out in the trenches, the treatment they received could be raw and brutal. Often black fighters were at the mercy of referees and judges who were snow-blind—they could only see white. Sometimes the officials weren't even the ones calling the shots, which was the case in Gans' harrowing fight with Joey Harrison in Passaic, New Jersey, in mid-1932. Eleven years later, Gans told *Milwaukee Journal* sports editor Russell G. Lynch what happened during and after the fight.

Handling Harrison easily, Gans returned to his corner at the end of the third round to find his cornerman crying and pleading with him to "go easy on this white boy." Then the handler indicated two white men sitting in the front row, one of whom displayed enough of a revolver in his inside coat pocket to convince Gans that knocking out Harrison was a bad idea. Still, he won the decision, and had to duck a bottle thrown at him on his way back to the dressing room. The two hoods followed, and as one stood guard at the door, the other worked over Gans' handler. The commotion brought the cops, but all they did was have the hoods wait outside, giving Gans—still wearing his ring gear—and his faction time to escape through a window and get away by running alongside a creek for four miles.



Gans gives pupil LeRoy Allen, a three-time Wisconsin Golden Gloves champion, a few pointers at the Urban League Gym, circa 1950. Today, Allen is director of the Baby Joe Gans Foundation, an organization that raises money to send inner-city kids to college.

Two of Joe's Boys, Steven and Tony Mihakovich, visit their mentor while on leave from the Army in 1945. Gans made a lasting impression on all the young men he trained.

In early-1933, a Dutch welterweight named Bep Van Klaveren began getting a lot of attention in New York. The Dutchman and Gans were matched in an eight-round fight at the Garden on the undercard of the middleweight title fight between Ben Jeby and Vince Dundee. THE RING's Borden had this to say about the Gans-Van Klaveren fight: "Baby Joe Gans, one of the best welterweights in the world, allowed Bep Van Klaveren, Holland welterweight, to push and punch him all over the ring for eight rounds. Gans refused to let any effective punches land, and made sure to miss his blows by inches and sometimes by feet. It was a farce which should have never been staged."

Borden didn't know the half of it. In the 1943 interview with Lynch, Gans told the whole story of that fight, beginning with the three men who had awakened him at 4

(Continued on page 62)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Michael Grant KO 9 Obed Sullivan
Chris Byrd W 10 Eliecer Castillo
David Tua KO 2 Nate Tubbs
Orlin Norris W 12 Adolpho Washington
Frans Botha KO 1 Stan Johnson
Corrie Sanders KO 2 Bobby Czyz
Darroll Wilson KO 5 Anthony Willis
Ezra Sellers W 10 Marion Wilson
Alex Stewart W 8 Abdul Muhaymin
Danell Nicholson KO 4 Everett Martin
Ed Mahone KO 1 Ernesto Moreno
Lamon Brewster KO 2 Louis Monaco
Derrick Jefferson W 10 Levi Billups
Vladimir Klitschko KO 4 Cody Koch
Tony Tucker KO 1 Bill Wright
Frankie Swindell KO 4 Josh Imardiyi
Phil Jackson KO 2 Gerard Jones
Greg Page KO 1 George Harris
Vincenzo Cantatore KO 3 Lamont Burgin
Nate Jones D 6 John Kiser
Wolfgramm KO 1 Guy Sonnenberg

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Dale Brown W 12 Leslie Stewart
Frank Tate KO 1 David Gamez

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Reggie Johnson W 12 Ole Klemetsen
(Retains IBF Title)
Mark Prince W 12 Kenneth Whack
Sven Ottke W 12 Asmir Vojnovic
Eric Lucas KO 2 Jamie Stevenson
Tim Hillie W 10 Arnold Fountain
Crawford Ashley KO 6 Tony Booth
Donny Lalonde D 6 Kevin Pompey

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Thulane Malinga KO 11 Fredrik Alvares
Bruno Girard W 10 Patrice Cord'Homme
Byron Mitchell KO 1 Adam Garland
Mads Larsen KO 4 Rob Bleakley

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Anthony Jones KO 8 Julian Jackson
Andrew Council W 10 Benji Singleton

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Yory Boy Campas KO 11 Pedro Ortega
(Retains IBF Title)
Laurent Boudouani W 12 Guillermo Jones
(Retains WBA Title)
Bronco McKart W 12 Ron Weaver
Tony Marshall W 12 Darren Maciunski
Hector Camacho KO 6 Tommy Small
Wilfredo Rivera W 10 Carlos Palomino
Santos Cardona KO 5 Juan Soberanes
Santiago Samaniego KO 7 Theo Elmore
Mamadou Thiam KO 2 Glenn Odem
Andrew Murray KO 7 Anthony Perry
Patrick Byrd W 8 Earl Allen

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya KO 3 Patrick Charpentier
(Retains WBC Title)
Shannan Taylor W 10 Jose Luis Benitez
Daniel Santos KO 5 Juan Carlos Rodriguez
Ahmed Katejew W 12 Paul Alejandro Sanchez
James Page KO 5 Eric Alexander
Joey Gamache KO 4 Felix DuBray
Larry LaCoursiere KO 5 Henry Mobley
Tony Lopez W 10 Horatio Garcia
Peter Malinga KO 2 Harrison Methula
Michele Piccirillo KO 5 Alessandro Duran

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Bolillo Gonzalez KO 9 Giovanni Parisi
Hector Lopez KO 8 Cesar Valdez
Zab Judah W 12 Mickey Ward
Diobelys Hurtado KO 3 Leonardo Mas
Reggie Green KO 6 Jose Soto
Tracy Patterson KO 1 German Castro
Ismael Chaves KO 9 Raul Lopez
Juan Martin Coggi W 10 Dezi Ford
Terronn Millett W 12 Freddie Pendleton
Ivan Robinson W 8 Manuel DeLeon
Jason Rowland W 12 Mark Winters
Chris Linson W 12 Rudy Lovato
Virgil McClendon W 10 Mark Fernandez
Soren Sondergaard W 8 Bryon Mackie
Hector Camacho Jr. W 8 Manuel DeLeon
Cory Spinks W 6 Abe Bruno
Cory Spinks W 4 Antonio Gonzalez

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Cesar Bazan W 12 Steve Johnston
(Wins WBC Title)
Angel Manfredy KO 7 Isander Lacen
Colin Dunne W 12 Emmanuel Clottey
Gianni Gelli W 10 George Scott
Orlando Canizales W 10 Javier Diaz
Paul Spadafora KO 8 Amado Cabato
Acelino Freitas KO 3 Rafael Olvera
Dennis Holbaek Pedersen KO 6 Gene Reed
Vivien Harris KO 2 Michael Lopez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Derrick Gainer KO 5 Orlando Soto
Floyd Mayweather Jr. W 10 Tony Pep
Diego Corrales KO 2 Eddie Contreras
Pablo Chacon W 10 Oscar Bogarin
Kengo Nagashima W 12 Yamato Mitani

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Freddie Norwood KO 8 Genaro Rios
(Retains WBA Title)
Cesar Soto KO 2 Juan Polo Perez
Paul Ingle KO 10 Moussa Sangre
Nestor Garza W 10 Freddy Cruz
Carlos Rios W 10 Victor Hugo Paz
Pastor Maurin W 10 Raul Gomez
Jon Jo Irwin W 12 Esham Pickering
Sergio Reyes KO 5 Hector Santana
Willie Jorrin KO 5 Oscar Antonio Salas
Zahir Raheem W 6 Adam Salas

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 1
Geronimo Cardoz
Michael Brodie W 12 Simon Ramoni
Israel Vazquez KO 3 Oscar Garcia
Setsuo Kawamasu KO 3 Jinho Lee

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Tim Austin KO 3 Andrian Kaspari
(Retains IBF Title)
Nana Konadu KO 8 Julio Salinas
(Non-Title Bout)
Julio Cesar Cardona KO 11 Luis Benavides
Johnny Bredahl KO 5 Patrick Quka
Kozo Ishii W 10 Yonghoon Lee
Shin Yamato W 10 Wataru Kaito

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Dario Azuaga KO 1 Luis Monge
David Vinger KO 9 Jaji Sibali

FLYWEIGHTS
Hugo Soto W 12 Jose Bonilla
(Wins WBA Title)
Jesper Jensen W 12 Vuyani Nene
Isidro Garcia W 12 Everardo Morales
Eric Morel W 8 Kid Togo

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Juan Domingo Cordoba W 12
Sandro Oviedo
Oscar Andrade KO 5 Ramon Euroza

STRAWWEIGHTS
Kermin Guardia KO 5 Eric Jamili
Jose Antonio Aguirre KO 7 Fernando Luna
Keitaro Hoshino W 10 Itsuo Oka

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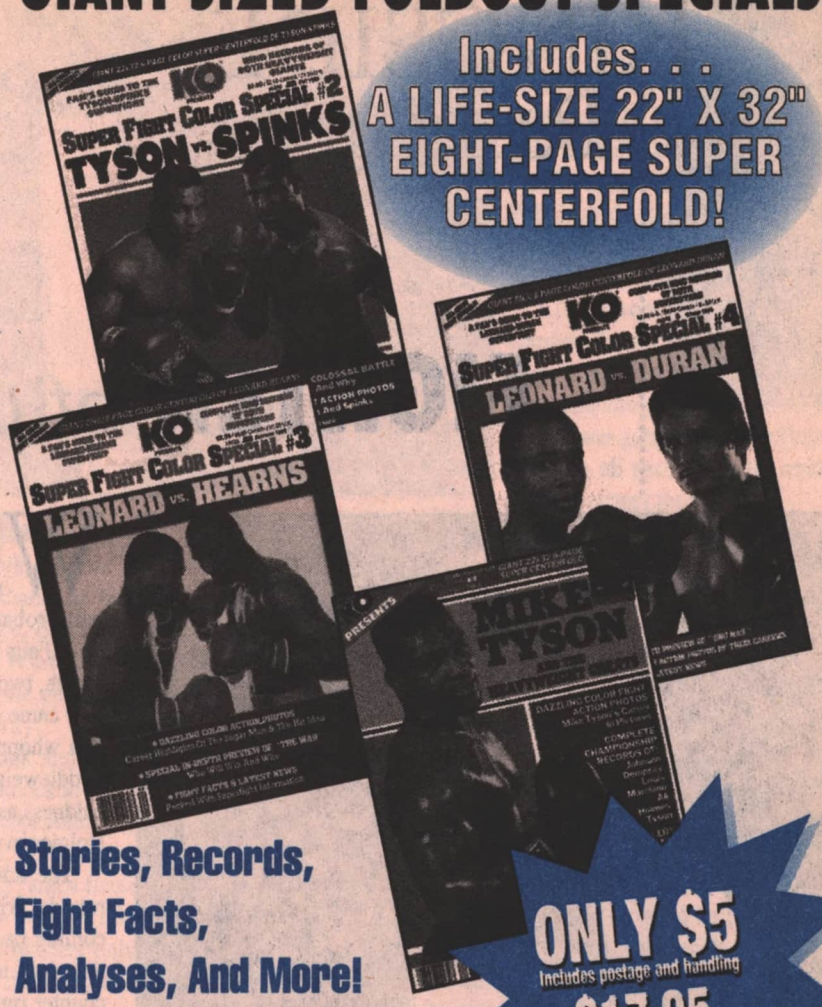

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

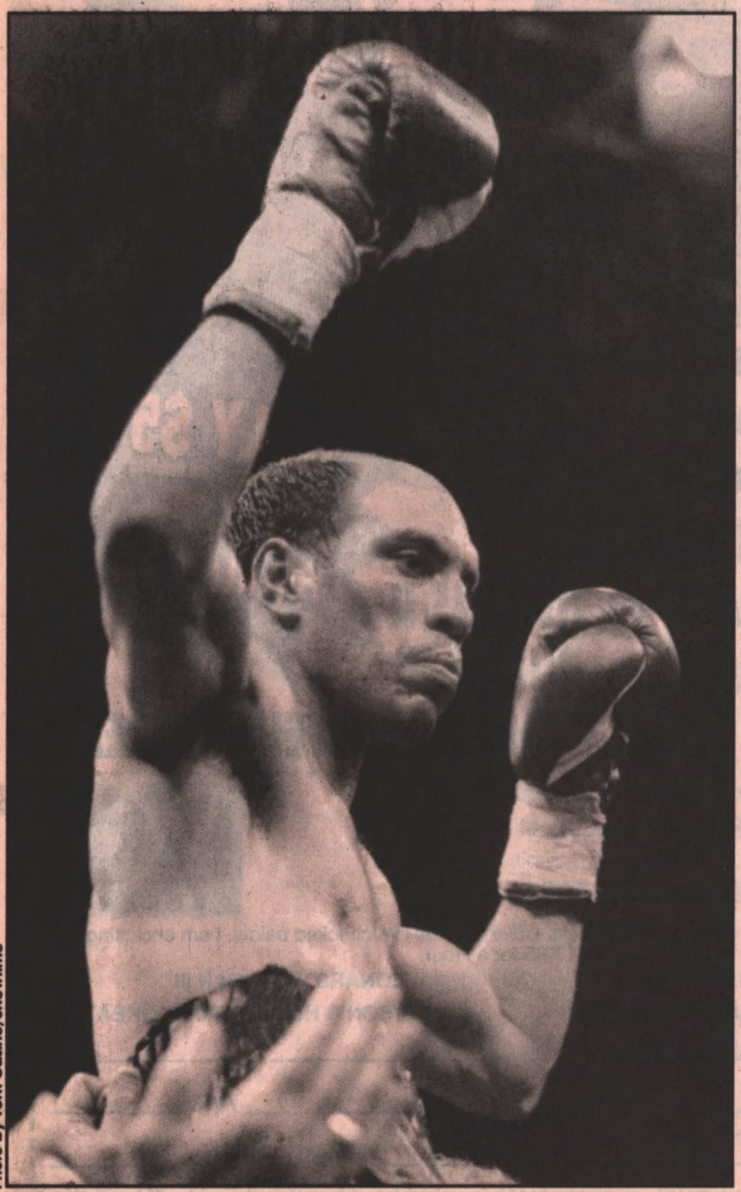


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

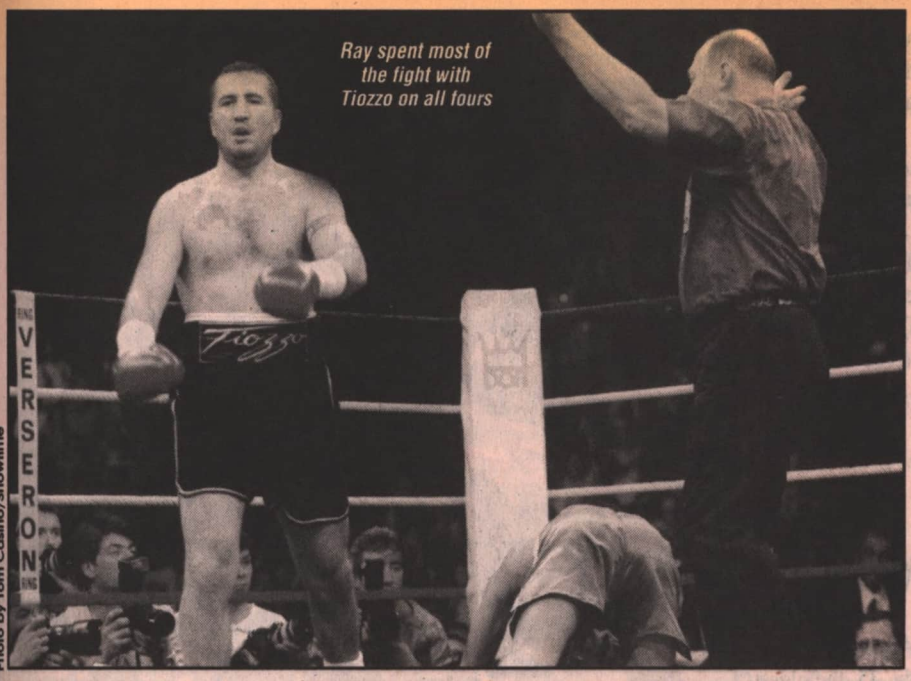
When French boxing historians of the future look back on their country's most prosperous periods of pugilism, the month of May 1998 will probably stand out as the greatest 31-day stretch ever. Four Frenchmen engaged in world title fights in the month, two as champions and two as challengers, and all four came out victorious, raising France's tally of titlists to a whopping five. And the man who started it all was middleweight Cherifi, whose boldness overshadowed his baldness as he outworked favored WBC champion Keith Holmes over 12 intense rounds.

The tide of the fight swung back and forth for nine rounds, with Cherifi building small leads and Holmes coming back to close the gap. When Holmes evened up the score in the ninth by knocking Cherifi down with a counter right hook, the 30-year-old challenger dug deep, made it through the round, and swept the final three stanzas to guarantee a victory.

Cherifi is not blessed with exceptional athleticism, but rather with the kind of desire and determination that pull fighters through sometimes, but are not always enough to overcome the odds. Cherifi's reign will probably not be a particularly long one; in fact, a more motivated Holmes would be expected to defeat him in a rematch. But for one night at least, Cherifi had the look of a true champion, and inspired his countrymen to follow suit.

• • • •

Hassine Cherifi



Ray spent most of the fight with Tiozzo on all fours

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Fabrice Tiozzo KO 1 Terry Ray

Villeurbanne, France: The normally reliable jaw of the 35-year-old veteran Ray, 187¾, Terre Haute, Indiana, let him down spectacularly as Tiozzo, 189, St. Denis, France, floored the challenger three times in 60 seconds to retain the WBA cruiserweight title at the Astroballe. It was Tiozzo's first title defense and the second-shortest title fight in cruiserweight history.

Ray never recovered from a solid left hook and debilitating right to the chin that produced the first of the knockdowns. He fell hard and took an eight-count from English referee John Coyle, but the respite was too brief. Tiozzo, 39-1 (25), consolidated with another right to the jaw, a left hook to the body, and a fierce right, which sent Ray sprawling along the ropes. He was, by this stage, completely immobilized, and he got back to his feet only to be met by a vicious assault of lefts and rights. A right uppercut finally finished him, and Coyle wisely called a halt.

"I got hurt," said Ray, 36-6 (22), when he had recovered. "This has never happened to me before. It just happened so damn quick."

Tiozzo, who had opened the fleeting encounter with a series of precise, powerful jabs, admitted he had not expected to end matters in such a hurry.

"I expected him to box and punch more," he said. "I'd seen tapes of him before, and he'd always recovered quickly."

The 29-year-old Tiozzo's next defense was scheduled for July 5 in Nimes, France, against mandatory challenger Ezequiel Paixao of Brazil.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-2-98)

Brian Doogan

Hassine Cherifi W 12 Keith Holmes

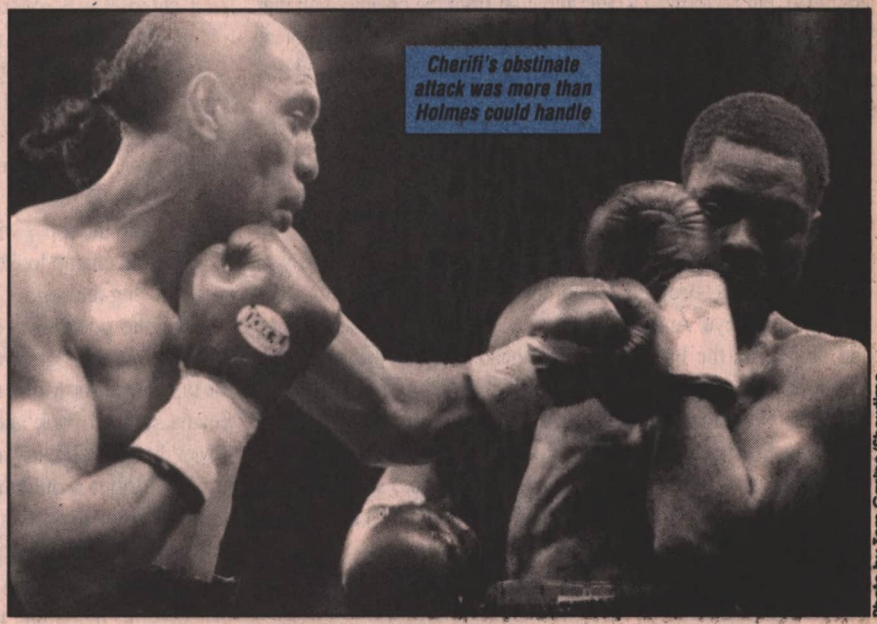
Villeurbanne, France: The performance might not have conjured up images of Marcel Cerdan, but the result did. Fifty years after the pork butcher's son from Algeria wooed Edith Piaf and an entire nation by toppling "The Man Of Iron," Tony Zale, Cherifi, 158½, Lyon, France, upset the odds as well, taking the WBC middleweight title from Holmes, 159, Washington, D.C., discernibly not a man of iron.

Comparisons between Cherifi and Cerdan should start and end with them being French and both having a surname that begins with C. But Cherifi was good enough for Holmes, climbing off the floor in the ninth to clinch a victory the hard way.

"I was hurt," conceded Cherifi. "He caught me with a very good left hook, but I trained very, very hard."

Harder perhaps than Holmes, who failed abjectly both to raise the pace when proceedings were slipping dangerously out of his control and to hammer home his advantage in the ninth when he should have stopped the 30-year-old challenger. Cherifi had succumbed by split decision in his only previous title try, a challenge for the WBC super middleweight belt against Robin Reid last September.

Three inches shorter, Cherifi, 25-2-1 (17), bore in on Holmes, 29, from the outset, the American wasting his genetic assets by popping powderpuff jabs instead of good, solid left leads. Cherifi was crude, but willing, and was rewarded when he landed a hard left-right at the bell to end the third. He scored with another good right in the seventh before Holmes, 31-2 (21), hit back and wobbled the mandatory challenger.



Cherifi's obstinate attack was more than Holmes could handle

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Cherifi turned matters in his favor again in the eighth, catching Holmes with a handful of stiff shots, but the champion swung things his way again—almost conclusively—with a hook to the jaw that sent Cherifi crashing. Holmes lacked the inclination or stamina to put the Frenchman away, however, and it was Cherifi who closed stronger.

John Keane (Great Britain) and Raymundo Solis (Mexico) scored it 115-112 for Cherifi, while Kurt Stroer (Germany) had it 115-113. THE RING scored 115-112 for the challenger. The referee was Larry O'Connell (Great Britain).

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-2-98)

Brian Doogan

Jean-Baptiste Mendy W 12 Orzubek Nazarov

Paris, France: Fittingly, Alexis Arguello rubber-stamped the decision that made Mendy, 35, the oldest man ever to win a version of the lightweight title. The triple-crown champion, working as a judge, and his two ringside colleagues unanimously endorsed a performance by Mendy, 133, France, that inflicted the first defeat on the formidable record of Nazarov, 134½. The Japan-based Russian had held the WBA lightweight title for nearly five years, but at the Bercy Stadium, he boxed nowhere near his best.

Credit for that must go to Mendy, whose sharp bursts were matched by nimble movement, which consistently took him comfortably out of range of Nazarov's all-too-composed counters. Inexplicably, Nazarov, 31, rated so highly by many, failed to muster any vengeance at all until it was far too late. His right eye was heavily marked at the finish, but the lingering damage will be to his psyche.

Mendy had been beaten in a brave bid for the WBA 140-pound title held by fellow Frenchman Khalid Rahilou in February, and hardly anyone seriously considered his chances of beating Nazarov, 26-1 (19), but he showed a determination from the opening bell that the champion just could not break. His right jab was far more potent than that of his bewildered opponent, and he landed more hard lefts, too, in this all-southpaw battle.

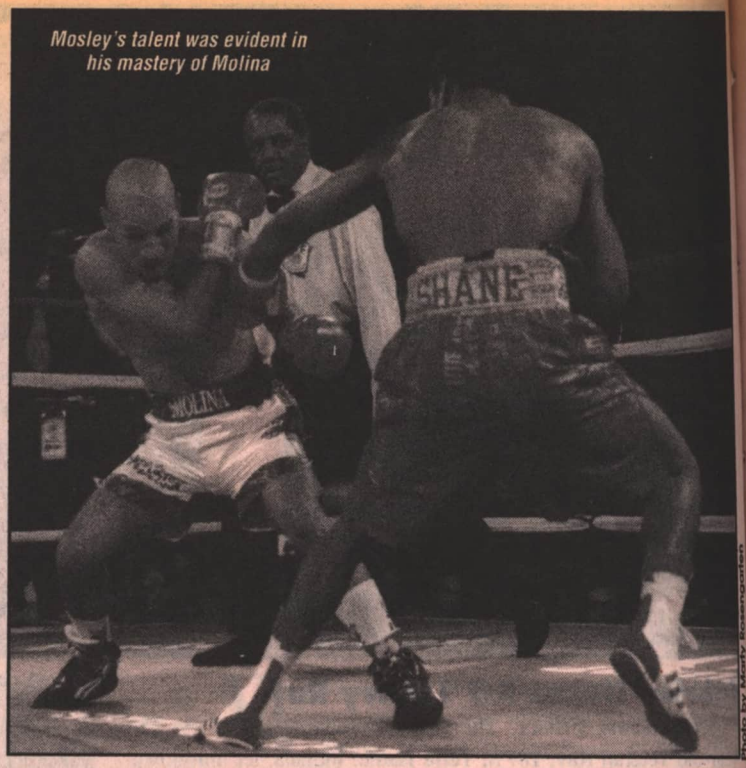
Inspired by his success from long range, Mendy, 51-6-2 (29) with one no-contest, began to attack in flurries in the fifth and sixth, rocking Nazarov's head on his shoulders, but still failing to induce some rock-and-roll from the Russian. Nazarov did become keener in the seventh, when an accidental butt—for which he was docked a point—brought blood streaming from two cuts over Mendy's right eye. And over the next two rounds, he raised bumps and bruises on the Frenchman's forehead, but failed to quell his spirit. He shook Mendy, who was WBC champion from April '96 to March '97, with a left in the last round, but it was not enough.

Franz Marti (Switzerland) had it 116-111, Marco Torres (Panama) saw it 116-112, and Arguello (Nicaragua) scored it 118-112, all for Mendy. THE RING had Mendy winning by 117-112.

Promoter: AB Stars Productions

(5-16-98)

Brian Doogan



Mosley's talent was evident in his mastery of Molina

Photo by Mary Rosenstein

Shane Mosley KO 8 John-John Molina

Atlantic City, New Jersey: August 2, 1997, was supposed to be the date of the highly touted Mosley's coming-out party, but an unconvincing performance in his IBF lightweight title win against Phillip Holiday delayed matters. Nine months later, the wait is officially over. Just minutes after Mosley's overwhelming attack left two-time former world champion Molina non-verbally pleading with referee Ed Johnson (USA) to stop the fight, HBO Sports Senior Vice President Lou DiBella roamed around the ringside press section at the Trump Taj Mahal Grand Ballroom insisting that "Sugar Shane" belonged on everybody's pound-for-pound lists—and at that moment, it was difficult to argue with him.

Mosley, 135, Los Angeles, California, looked decent in his first defense last November against Manuel Gomez, and significantly better in his second defense in February against Demetrio Ceballos, but neither opponent held the credentials of the still-dangerous 33-year-old Molina. The Puerto Rican challenger showed he would be no pushover when he outboxed Mosley over the first two rounds, throwing more punches and, surprisingly, appearing just as fast as the IBF champion. After Molina, 135, backed Mosley into the ropes with a pair of rights in the second round, the 26-year-old champ looked puzzled and uncomfortable, and in danger of losing the belt.

But the possibility of an upset disappeared very quickly. Mosley found his groove and scored with a left-right combination in the third. As Molina tried desperately to clutch him, Sugar Shane stepped back and landed a thudding right to the temple. From that point on, it was Mosley's fight.

But Molina wouldn't go easily. Mosley scored with a perfect counter right hand to the chin in the fifth, but the challenger walked right through it. In the sixth, a fierce overhand right by Mosley found the mark, but Molina still seemed unfazed. With just seconds remaining in the seventh, Mosley finally got through

with, of all things, a jab. An off-balance Molina walked right into the short left hand, and dropped to his knees for an official knockdown.

Angry that he had given up a point by getting sloppy, and aware that he had fallen well behind on the scorecards, Molina came out blazing in the eighth. A lead right and a left hook found the champion's face, but the wild exchange that followed turned the fight in the champion's favor for good. Sugar Shane landed a series of left hooks in the center of the ring, including a brutal shot to the liver, and Molina staggered into the ropes, ducking through them in obvious pain. Mosley, 27-0 (25), was benevolent enough to wait for the Puerto Rican to turn and face him again, but it was already over. Molina, 45-5 (30), couldn't even raise his arms to defend himself, and after a straight right snapped the challenger's head back, Johnson called a halt at the 2:27 mark.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Cedric Kushner Promotions
(5-9-98)
Eric Raskin

David Reid KO 2 Nick Rupa

Atlantic City, New Jersey: When referee Lindsey Page (USA) stopped the scheduled 10-rounder 2:17 into the second round, a jubilant Reid jumped about four feet off the canvas and pumped his fist in the air. It was a celebration highly reminiscent of the one that occurred after Reid's come-from-behind kayo of Alfredo Duvergel at the 1996 Olympics. Not that beating Rupa, 29-6-1 (17), was anywhere near as big a deal as winning the gold medal. But after being taken the distance by Robert Frazier and Fidel Avendano in his two previous outings, Reid, 9-0 (6), was ecstatic about displaying his one-punch kayo power again.

"I was so happy and excited when I knocked him out because it was time for me to have an easy fight," said Reid.

Based on his strong, albeit losing, effort against Terry Norris last year, some observers thought that Rupa, 156, would give "The American Dream" a decent tussle. But it wasn't to be. Rupa did manage to hustle his way inside early in the first round and plant a short shot on his opponent's sensitive left eyelid, but as soon as the 156-pound Philadelphian found the range for his deadly right hand, the transplanted Trinidadian was in serious trouble.

Several rights and a solid left hook tagged Rupa in the first, and when he ducked into the path of another right-hand rocket in the second, the fight was as good as over. Reid's blow caught Rupa on the temple and sent him sprawling to the canvas. The stricken boxer managed to stumble to his feet inside of Page's 10-count, but was in no condition to continue.

"I knew he was really hurt because he started doing the duck walk when he got up," said Reid. "If the ref had let it go on, I was going in bombing. As long as I stay in shape, I don't think anybody in the world can beat me."

Al Mitchell—Reid's trainer, adviser, father-figure—was also pleased with his charge's performance.

"David showed more control. He's more relaxed, more mature," said Mitchell. "Only thing, I thought he could have got him out in the first if he'd put more combinations together. But the transition is about to happen. One or two more fights, and he'll be right where I want him."

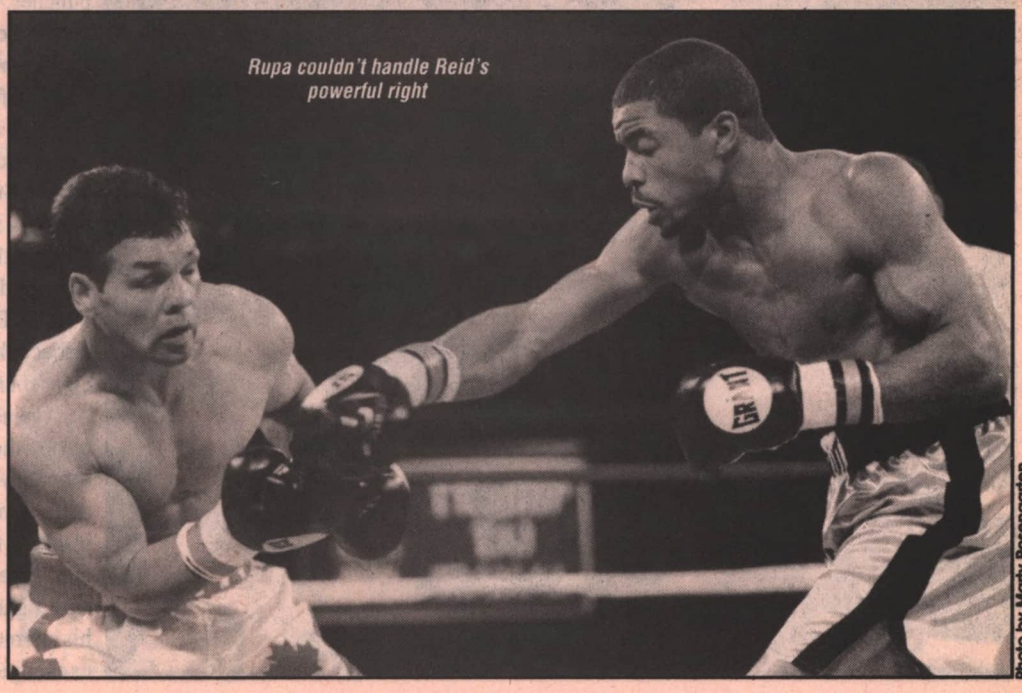
Sounds like bad news for the rest of the junior middleweight division.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Cedric Kushner Promotions
(5-9-98)
Nigel Collins

Yory Boy Campas KO 11 Pedro Ortega

Tijuana, Mexico: Campas returned to a hero's welcome in Tijuana, the city where he first made his name as a professional boxer, and retained the IBF junior middleweight belt with a tough 11th-round technical knockout of Ortega.

Campas, who had fought in Tijuana more than 30 times previously, was given a rousing ovation as he entered the ring with his traditional Indian headdress, along with two dancing shamans with deer horns on their heads, to the sound of the maracas and chants of goodwill. He was a big favorite of the crowd, but Ortega, a young up-and-comer from Tijuana, also had his followers for the match that was billed, "Who Is The Real Warrior?" Five-thousand fans filled the Auditorio Municipal Fausto Gutierrez to see their adopted son make the second defense of the title he won back in December of 1997.



Rupa couldn't handle Reid's powerful right

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

After a slow first round that was won easily by the challenger, Campas, Navajoa, Mexico, came out strong for the second round and began the dismantling of a fighter who was too proud and inexperienced to quit after taking a pounding for the next seven rounds. Using his left hand to set up his big thunderous right, Campas beat Ortega to the punch every time and, after a tremendous third round in which both fighters took everything the other had, Campas took control of the fight for good.

By the fourth round, Ortega was bleeding under the left eye, and in the seventh the eyebrow of the same side began to gush. The champ tried to end the fight in the eighth round as he pounded Ortega from one side of the ring to the other. The challenger looked like he was ready to go at any time, but simply refused to go down and kept coming back for more.

Campas took the next two rounds off as Ortega keep coming forward and using his right jab for the first time in the fight. He was able to keep Campas off him, and at the same time opened a slight cut on the bridge of the nose of the champ, who more than anything look tired of hitting his opponent.

The end finally came in the 11th round, when Campas again went to work with a visible desire to end the fight. Just 52 seconds into that round, Gwen Adair, the female referee from Los Angeles, stopped the bout when it was obvious that Ortega, though still refusing to quit, had reached the danger zone.

"Pedro showed a lot of guts in the ring tonight," said Campas, 71-2 (61), after the fight. "It was obvious he came to fight and wanted to win the title, but I was prepared to go the distance and do what I needed to do to keep my belt. My left shoulder and hand were hurt during the fight, and I was not able to finish him earlier. It was a tough fight, but I'm glad I got to defend my title in Tijuana and I hope the people enjoyed the fight."

The judges at ringside all had Campas ahead. Bill Graham (USA) scored it 96-94, and both Alejandro Rochin (Mexico) and Juan Jose Ramirez (Mexico) had the champ up 97-93 after 10 rounds.

"I wanted to keep fighting because you never know when you will get another opportunity to fight for a world title," said Ortega, 22-7-1 (15). "I was either going to get knocked out or have the fight stopped by the referee, but I was not going to quit. Tonight I fought a great champion and I will learn from this fight."

Promoter: Zanfer Promotions of Tijuana

(6-5-98)

Ricardo Jimenez

Hugo Soto W 12 Jose Bonilla

Las Vegas, Nevada: Soto displayed an iron will in the late rounds of a furious war with incumbent Bonilla to win the WBA flyweight championship on a disputed 12-round split decision at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Soto, 111, Catamarca, Argentina, and Bonilla, 112, El Tigre, Venezuela, are both 30 years old and both stand 5'5". Though devoid of knockdowns, there were few lulls in the action. American referee Richard Steele's let-'em-fight policy was appreciated by all.

Bonilla, a 2-1 favorite, was making his American debut with a promise that "anyone trying to take my title will have to kill me first." Soto, in his second U.S. outing, frustrated the champion with lunging hooks and jabs to win over two judges. In the official scoring, Dalby Shirley (USA) saw it 116-112 for Soto, while Alejandro Rochin (Mexico) had it almost the same at 116-113. Bonilla earned the favor of Manuel Gonzalez (Panama) with a 116-114 tally. THE RING's log was 115-113 for Soto. Most ringside observers didn't resent Bonilla's protest of the result of his fourth title defense, since the bout had many rounds that were difficult to score.

Soto came out on top in a close fight with Bonilla

Photo by Chris Farina

"I feel I definitely won this fight," Bonilla said through an interpreter. "I was throwing most of the heavier punches. Whenever Soto had one of his flurries, I know I blocked a lot of those shots. This fight was close enough for a rematch. If Don King will give me one, I know the next time I'll knock Soto out."

For Soto, the narrow victory climaxed a five-year campaign to gain a world title. Turning pro in 1988, he travelled to Tokyo in 1994, where then-WBC flyweight ruler Yuri Arbachakov ruined the trip with an eight-round knockout.

Against Bonilla, Soto was quicker out of the gate, taking the first four rounds with an irritating jab. Bonilla deftly blocked punches and countered inside to make it a virtually even fight after seven rounds. Soto was effective with right-hand leads, but Bonilla had his moments when the pair fell into exchanges. Late in the ninth round,

Soto knocked Bonilla off-balance with the best left hook of the night and followed with a right to the jaw.

Bonilla took a hard right to the head to open the 11th round, but came back to pressure Soto with three-punch salvos to the head and body. He also drove Soto into a neutral corner and landed a left-right-left-right just before the bell. In the final three minutes, Bonilla and Soto threw caution to the wind in a mid-ring shootout, each accurate with combinations to the head and body.

Soto, earning $20,000, improved his credentials to 50-5-2 (33), while Bonilla, who collected $30,000, dipped to 24-4 (12).

Television: U.S. Satellite Broadcasting

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-29-98)

Jack Welsh

Vuyani Bungu W 12 Ernesto Grey

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Despite failing to perform at his normal high standard, South African Bungu still did enough—at least in the eyes of the official judges—to outpoint Colombian challenger Grey and retain the IBF junior featherweight title before an estimated crowd of 3,500 at the Carousel gambling resort. There was a mixed reception to the split decision, and many will argue that the 31-year-old Bungu was fortunate to come away a winner. In a snap survey at ringside of journalists and commission officials, the voting was 14-3 in favor of Grey.

Grey, 122, a switch-hitter who boxed mostly from the southpaw stance, threw more punches and showed much more desire than the champion, who was defending the title for 11th time. The taller Colombian backed up Bungu, 122, throughout the 12 rounds, making for an exciting fight. Despite the terrific pace, South African referee Stanley Christodoulou was in complete control throughout.

Grey pounded forward throwing combinations, but the South African came back to score with counterpunches that snapped the challenger's head back at times. The fight appeared to be even at the end of the ninth, but in rounds 10 and 11, the courageous Bungu tired visibly and allowed the Colombian to pour on excessive pressure. It was only the experience and heart of a great little battler that kept the defending champion going, allowing him to retain the title. Judges Lulama Mtya (South Africa) and Pete Podgorski (USA) both scored it 116-113 in favor of the champion, while judge Luis Estrada (Colombia) had it 115-113 in favor of Grey.

In his first fight outside his home country, Grey saw his record slip to 19-3 (17), while Bungu improved to 35-2 (19).

Promoter: Rodney Berman

(5-16-98)

Ron Jackson

Laurent Boudouani W 12 Guillermo Jones

Las Vegas, Nevada: In a rematch following their majority draw in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in February, WBA junior middleweight champion Boudouani finished strongly to capture a split decision over Jones at the Las Vegas Hilton.

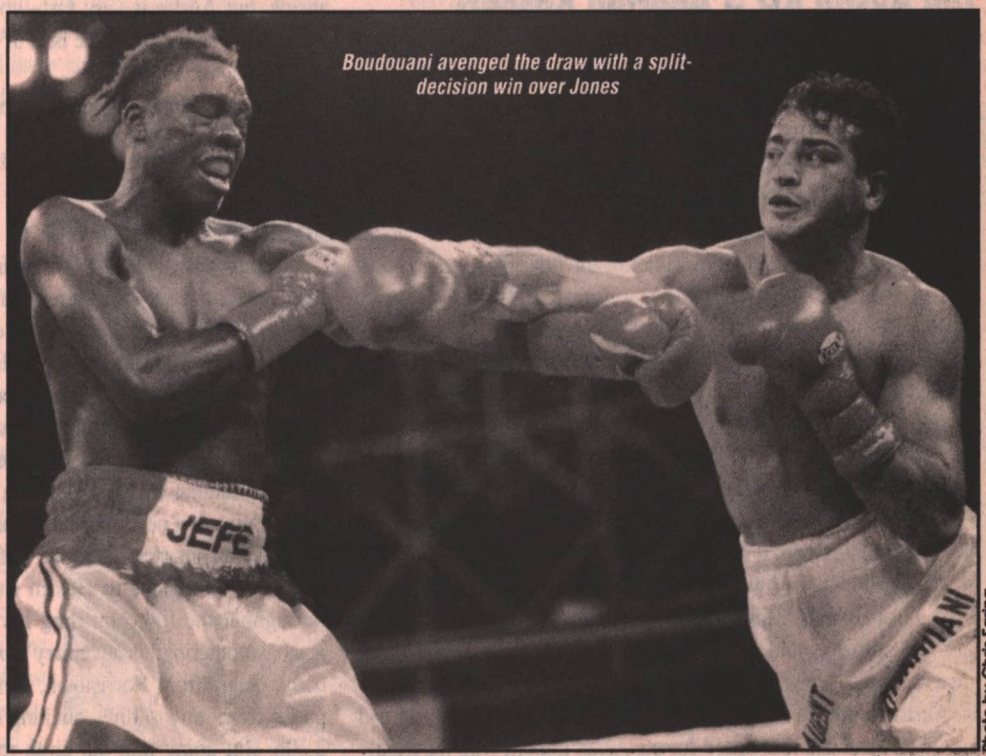
Boudouani, 32, appeared to be a clear-cut winner over Jones, 154, Colon, Panama, and had to be perplexed when Jimmy Lennon Jr. announced the verdict. On the official ballots, judge Jerry Roth (USA) and Melchoir Taylor (Trinidad) favored Boudouani with respective tabs of 116-112 and 115-113. The audience got a jolt hearing that judge Oscar Perez (Dominican Republic) voted 117-111 for Jones. THE RING's card was 116-112 for Boudouani.

Boudouani, 153, Salanches, France, standing 5'10", knew what he was up against because the 6'4" Jones, 26, wasn't going to get any shorter. In the early rounds, the champion, always on the move, had to avoid a light jab that landed infrequently. Still, it was enough for the awkward Jones to win four of the first five rounds on two of the judges' cards.

Boudouani, though having to lunge with most of his punches, began to get the range in the sixth round while blocking many of Jones' jabs. The Frenchman jarred Jones with a tremendous left in the eighth round and snapped his head back with a right-left at the bell.

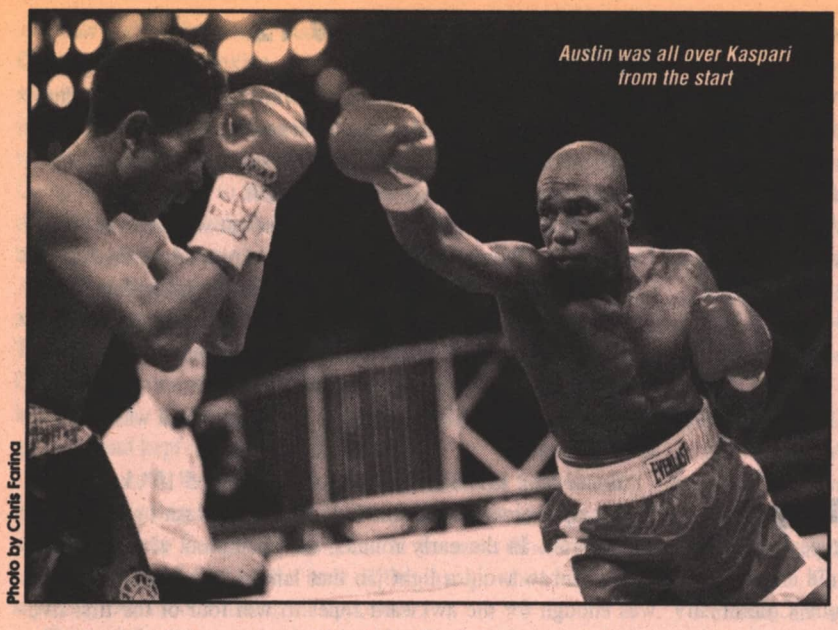
Early in the ninth, Boudouani shook the WBA's number-one contender with a six-punch salvo and then two right-hand leads. Jones was ineffective trying to stalk and counter. Boudouani was outpunching the tiring Jones by a 3-1 ratio through the 10th and 11th rounds, scoring big-time with solo overhand rights to the head. Jones was wobbled by a short combination inside in the 12th that made the challenger hold.

"I was taking my time early because I had been in with Jones before and I wanted to be efficient with my strategy," said Boudouani. "I know I won this fight going away, but I don't know



Boudouani avenged the draw with a split-decision win over Jones

Photo by Chris Farina



Austin was all over Kaspari from the start

Photo by Chris Farina

what that one judge was watching. Jones' height can be difficult, so I knew I had to get inside to wear him down. After the sixth round, I don't think he won more than two rounds. It wasn't close. I just didn't want any repeat of what happened in Albuquerque."

Michel Acaries stated afterward that Boudouani intends to unify the 154-pound title, meaning he'll have to go through IBF king Yory Boy Campas and WBC champ Keith Mullings.

Boudouani, 36-2-1 (31), earned $300,000 in his third defense of the title. Jones, 22-2-1 (19), picked up $40,000.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-30-98)

Jack Welsh

Tim Austin KO 3 Andrian Kaspari

Las Vegas, Nevada: Austin's growing reputation as one of boxing's biggest little bombers took another giant step upward when he spectacularly chilled number-one contender Kaspari on a third-round TKO to retain the IBF bantamweight crown at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Austin, 118, Cincinnati, Ohio, admittedly won't be happy until he unifies the bantam title. After the way Austin devastated Kaspari, 117, Surabaya, Indonesia, veteran pricemakers indicated he would be at least a 3-1 choice fighting either of the division's other champions—Nana Konadu, the WBA counterpart from Ghana, or Joichiro Tatsuyoshi, the WBC ruler out of Japan.

Austin, 27, earned $40,000 for hardly breaking a sweat in raising his credentials to 18-0-1 (17), while Kaspari, 26, collecting $10,000, slipped to 9-1 (9).

"Some people probably figure this fight was for chump change, but it was a mandatory defense I had to get out of the way. I'll fight anybody out there who can generate a decent gate," Austin said. "I've been patient, but it's now my time. I don't care if it's Konadu or Tatsuyoshi. If they want to improve their image, just step forward. I hear Johnny Tapia is reported to be moving up in weight. If that's true, that would be the best fight of the three. Great fight, great money."

Austin, a bronze medalist in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, had too much hand and foot speed for the Asian import, who reportedly had 21 other knockout wins that were not documented and therefore not allowed on his record.

The abbreviated challenge was Kaspari's first recognized outing in nine months. Austin, making his second defense, went right to work with combinations, as Kaspari, with gloves high, was cautious early and short with his jab when he threw it.

Austin opened the second round with left-handed leads, backing up Kaspari. Fighting on the outside, Kaspari was ineffective with a pair of rights while catching two clubbing rights to the head. Whenever Kaspari tried to press, the slick champion had no problem avoiding his blows.

Kaspari did land one decent right to the jaw in the third, but Austin countered with a double-combination. Moving to mid-ring, Austin fired a right jab and then exploded with a picture-book left hook that lifted Kaspari off the canvas.

The challenger, reportedly down for the first time as a pro, struggled to beat the 10-count, but when he wobbled erect, referee Mills Lane wisely halted the bout at 1:57 of the third. It was 10 minutes before Kaspari was able to be led from the ring by his cornermen.

"Once I got my rhythm, I knew I'd have no trouble landing the punches I wanted," Austin said. "Working off the jab, I hurt Kaspari several times with left hooks. I knew he hadn't fought in a while, and I figured he'd come out fast because he was hungry. I don't think Kaspari has fought many southpaws. When he did try to pressure me, it was easy to counter."

Kaspari, who jetted halfway around the world for this title chance, was gracious in defeat.

"In the beginning, I was trying to get to his body by working inside, but Austin is very fast—too fast," he said. "Tim Austin is very good, he might be the best of all bantam champions."

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-30-98)

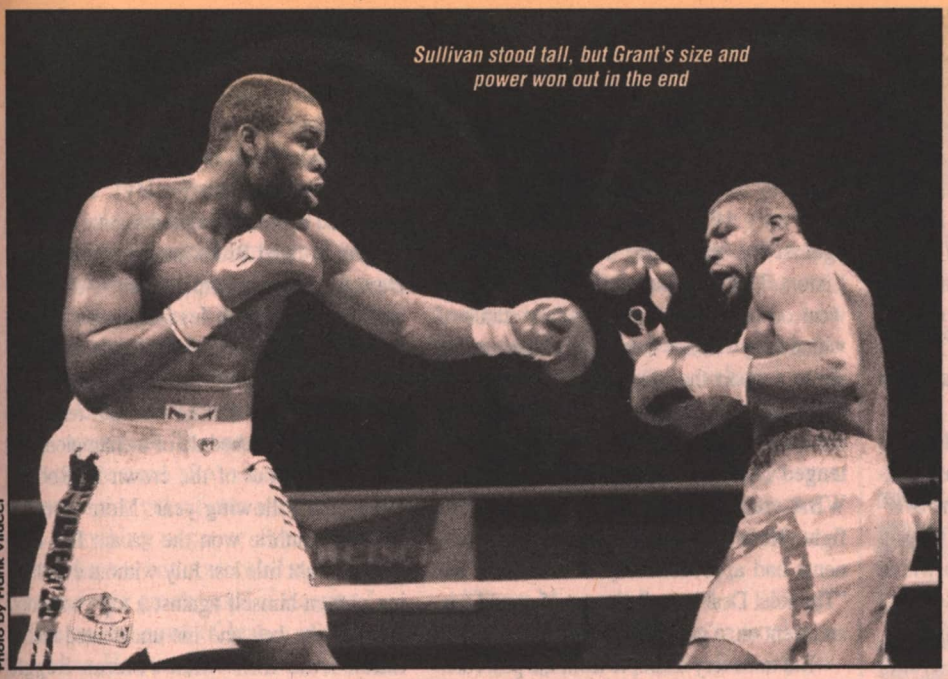
Jack Welsh

Michael Grant KO 9 Obed Sullivan

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Rising heavyweight star Grant, 255, overcame a cut eye and a strong effort by Sullivan, 234, to tally an emphatic TKO in the ninth round of a scheduled 12-rounder at the Boardwalk Convention Center Ballroom.

An accidental clash of heads opened a slice over Grant's left eye in the otherwise uneventful first round, and when Sullivan planted a solid right on the injury early in the second, an upset seemed possible. But cutman Joe Souza did an excellent job of controlling the laceration, and it never became a major factor.

Sullivan, smarting from the criticism he received after his lackluster decision loss to Hasim Rahman last year, worked hard throughout the fight, hustling his way inside of Grant's 86-inch reach, smothering his adversary's potent offense, and digging to the body. Grant, from Norristown, Pennsylvania, connected with a big punch from time to time, eliciting *oohs* and *ahs* from the crowd of 2,106. But going into the ninth round, Sullivan, though bleeding



Sullivan stood tall, but Grant's size and power won out in the end

Photo by Frank Vitucci

from a cut over his own left eye, seemed unfazed by Grant's best shots and still very much in the fight.

Ironically, Sullivan got off to an auspicious start in the ninth, landing a pair of head-snapping rights and several solid jabs. But when he attempted to press his advantage, the ex-Marine from Houston, Texas, ran into a booming right to the head that dropped him hard for a mandatory eight-count.

Sullivan, 29-3-1 (20), winked at his corner after regaining his feet, but nobody, least of all Grant, was fooled. Sullivan was in serious trouble, and Grant quickly ripped into him with a two-fisted barrage. Sullivan gamely survived his tormentor's initial onslaught, but when Grant, 28-0 (20), pinned him on the ropes a second time and jerked his head back-and-forth with flush combinations, referee Tony Orlando prudently called a halt at the 2:16 mark.

"I was too patient. I should have jumped on him right away," said Grant. "I made it tough on myself by not jabbing. But I'm happy with the way everything went. I still got him out of there."

Television: HBO

Promoter: Main Events

(5-30-98)

Nigel Collins

Erik Morales KO 2 Jose Luis Bueno

Indio, California: Making his third defense of the WBC super bantamweight title he won from Daniel Zaragoza last September, 21-year-old star-in-the-making Morales, 121¾, breezed through former 115-pound champ Bueno, 121¾, and sealed the deal with a spectacular knockout just 1:19 into round two. The Tijuana, Mexico, native upped his record to 30-0 (24) almost without breaking a sweat, a luxury he won't be able to afford much longer, as his defenses promise to become more challenging in the near future.

Bueno, 28, started aggressively, moving inside to score with combinations, and frequently beating Morales to the punch in the opening round. The challenger from Mexico City scored with a solid three-punch combination, but one straight left from the taller, stronger Morales had more impact than any of Bueno's combinations. Morales took control midway through the round, catching Bueno frequently as he flailed at the champ with wide power shots.

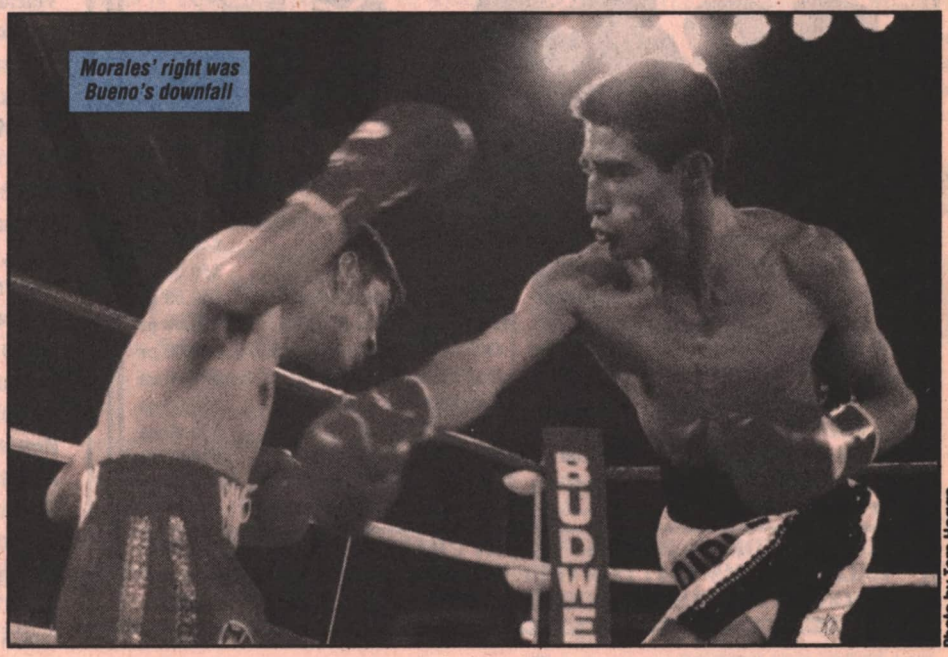
Morales stunned Bueno with a short right to the jaw early in the second. Moments later, a straight left to the face, followed by a glancing right, sent the challenger to his knees. Bueno was up quickly, but Morales trapped him along the ropes. The champion missed with a right uppercut and a wild left, but a short right over the top landed square on Bueno's jaw, causing his eyes to roll back in his head and his body to collapse to the canvas. Referee Marty Sammon (USA) didn't even bother to count, as the senses of Bueno, 30-9-2 (21), were clearly far removed from the ring at the Fantasy Springs Casino in which his body was sprawled.

Morales has reached 30 wins with little difficulty, but he is set to face his toughest challenge on September 12 when he collides with Junior Jones. The fight will take place in Tijuana, an important advantage for the champion in a match that could go either way.

Television: TVKO

Promoter: Top Rank Inc.

(5-16-98) ■



Morales' right was Bueno's downfall

Photo by Tom Hogan

Mayweather vs. Hernandez

(Continued from page 42)

"I'm gonna tell my son exactly how to beat him. The fight's over between one to five rounds. From one to five, Hernandez will be out of there, and to last five, he'll have to run. And if it so happens that Genaro Hernandez lasts to a decision, he can't win anyway."

The normally reserved Hernandez was more than a little ticked off by the trash-talking of the Mayweathers, especially the overconfident decree by Floyd Sr. that his son would polish off the great champion within five rounds.

"[Floyd Sr.] barely came out of the pen, and now he's piling on a lot of crap," Hernandez said. "Floyd and his dad are talking a lot, but I will be more motivated than ever to prove what they got in front of them is no bum."

Mayweather is not the first brash Olympian in history to rush himself into the title picture. Boxing fans may recall a heavyweight by the name of Muhammad Ali who, after only 19 pro fights, took a chance against the seemingly unbeatable Sonny Liston. That risk paid off for Ali, and he went on to achieve the legendary status of which Mayweather dreams. Another example to support the Mayweathers' claim that Pretty Boy Floyd is not being moved along too quickly is Evander Holyfield, who challenged Dwight Muhammad Qawi for the WBA cruiserweight title in only his 12th fight. None of Holyfield's previous opponents had approached Qawi's caliber, but "The Real Deal" toughed out a 15-round win and went on to greatness.

But not every example from the past forecasts a happy ending for Mayweather. There is the famous case of Pete Rademacher, who won a gold medal at the '56 Games and was granted a shot at heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson in his first pro bout. Rademacher was knocked out in the sixth, lost his second pro fight as well (by fourth-round kayo to Zora Folley), and never amounted to much as a professional boxer.

The ill-fated Bronx junior middleweight Davey Moore compiled an 8-0 record before challenging less-than-spectacular WBA champ Tadashi Mihara in 1982. Moore won the belt with a sixth-round TKO, but found that he was not ready for the demanding schedule of a champion, and was battered out of the crown by Roberto Duran the following year. More recently, William Guthrie won the vacant IBF light heavyweight title last July without ever having proven himself against a top contender, and had the belt and his undefeated record taken from him when veteran Reggie Johnson knocked him cold in the fifth round of Guthrie's first defense.

Like Duran was to Moore and Johnson was to Guthrie, Hernandez will present a major step up in competition for Mayweather. The biggest names on Mayweather's resume are Louie Leija and Tony Pep, neither of whom could possibly prepare the budding superstar for the challenge that awaits in Hernandez. Public opinion seems to be split on whether Mayweather may be diving into an empty swimming pool, as a recent *KO Magazine* "Head To Head" panel of four experts was divided right down the middle in picking a winner. Veteran trainer and broadcaster Gil Clancy, who was not included in the *KO* panel, feels very strongly that Mayweather is making a mistake.

"Mayweather is a talented kid," Clancy said, "but if I was managing him, I'd wait a while before taking this fight. Genaro Hernandez is very experienced; he's a solid boxer. This is a big step up for a guy who's never really been pressed before. And even if he won, where would he go from there? He hasn't fought at this level yet. You just have to wonder, what's the big hurry?"

Television fight commentator Dave Bontempo is also inclined to make Hernandez the favorite, but he thinks the fight is worthwhile for Mayweather in the long run, and is definitely a must-have for boxing.

"It's a hell of a fight," Bontempo said, "and I love the aspect of Mayweather step-

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ping up a bit against a tall, lanky guy with an excellent jab. As a fight fan, I applaud the guy stepping up. If I were his manager, I might want to wait a while, but the problem would be that you never know if the fight will still be there a year from now. If it is premature, it's just a tad premature.

"I'd pick Hernandez to win a close, maybe split, decision, but it would be a great fight, and Mayweather's people can attribute the loss to Hernandez' tricky style and grow as a result. It didn't bother Mayweather too much to lose at the Olympics, so I think he could bounce back. The sport of boxing is in absolute dire need of a matchup in which someone with a pulse fights someone with a pulse. Anything negative about pushing Mayweather too fast is canceled out by what this does for the greater good of the sport."

One man assured of both a win *and* a loss when Hernandez and Mayweather meet in their HBO-televised bout on October 3 is Bob Arum, whose promotional company, Top Rank Inc., represents both fighters. For Arum, the reward obviously outweighs the risk; otherwise, he wouldn't be making the fight.

"It's debatable whether Floyd has the experience to beat a master like Genaro Hernandez," Arum said. "He and his father seem to believe he does. A potential superstar like Floyd always has great ambition, and as a promoter, I can't hold him back. The reason fights like this don't get made very often is that people believe a loss could be a disaster. But if Floyd loses, it's not the end of the world. He'll still learn a tremendous amount. And the upside if he wins is so great."

Hernandez vs. Mayweather is a great fight for boxing, full of the kind of contrasts that should make it an easy sell: the veteran vs. the rookie; smarts vs. speed; experience vs. athleticism; patience vs. power; the quintessential nice guy vs. the cocky egotist. That contrast in personality is the one that makes this fight most marketable, as you either love Mayweather or you hate him. Either you embrace his attitude and you want to see him ascend to the throne, or you've been waiting since the first time you saw him for his head to be hung in defeat, and you think Hernandez is the guy to make it happen.

In the end, Mayweather's cockiness will be the key to the fight's result. One of two scenarios will unfold: Either Pretty Boy Floyd's belief that he can't be touched—especially by a light hitter like Hernandez—will help him overwhelm Chicanito much like De La Hoya did three years ago, or Hernandez will outbox him early and leave a flustered 21-year-old without his confidence and, in turn, his unbeaten record. Whether Mayweather can put his punches where his mouth is should become evident in the first three or four rounds, and go a long way toward determining the winner. And Hernandez is confident that he'll be ready for whatever Mayweather throws at him.

"As far as a game plan," Hernandez said, "I've just got to see what he does and respond to his style. He's gonna try to show his speed, and he's a good counterpuncher. I like to work inside, so that's probably my best bet to slow him down.

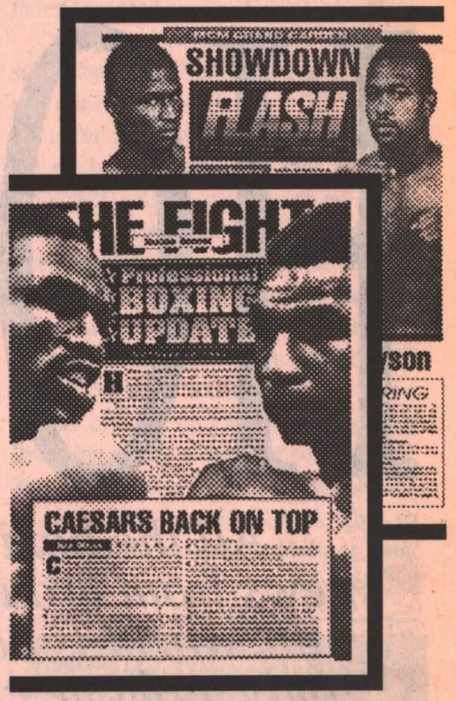
"There's no such word as 'lose,'" Hernandez continued. "I ain't planning to lose. Nobody's gonna stop me. The only person that can stop me is me. If some people think Floyd will win, fine. All I can do is prove everybody wrong."

Hernandez has been in this situation before, and he failed to prove everybody wrong who picked upstart De La Hoya to defeat him. In terms of ability, Chicanito feels Mayweather is comparable to the De La Hoya he faced in '95. But there are enough slight differences between "The Golden Boy" and "The Pretty Boy" to make Hernandez believe he has the edge.

"The biggest difference is cockiness," Hernandez said. "Floyd's too cocky. And Oscar's a little smarter than he is. It's not a matter of experience; people say he doesn't have experience, but with all those amateur fights, you get experience. But I don't think Floyd Mayweather hits harder than Oscar. I plan on keeping my title."

And if Hernandez does keep the title, where does that leave Mayweather? He's a fighter whose reputation is built partially on his own confidence, and a loss could damage that confidence and, in turn, his whole reputation. Hernandez, of course, has a lot riding on this fight as well. A loss transforms him from the top-rated 130-pounder in the world to a two-time steppingstone for young prospects. Somebody's career is going to take an enormous backward step. But at least Hernandez has already held two world titles and enjoyed his time in the spotlight. An enormous backward step for Mayweather, a 21-year-old with such promise and ego, could be devastating. ■

Worldwide guide to pro boxing



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New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

each way to Champs Gym in Philadelphia every day to hone his skills. The dream of one day becoming a champion is the fuel that motivates him, as is a promise he made to his father just before he died of a heart attack last year.

"Without those visions, I would have given up," admitted the 31-year-old Browning. "I've run too many miles and taken too many punches to quit now. Besides, I made a promise to my father just before he died that I would bring the championship belt to his grave so he could see what his son has done."

Browning does not have a distinctive style. He's usually in an opponent's face, has a good work rate, and is an effective counterpuncher. Most of his career has been as a welterweight, but he feels he can really make his mark as a junior welterweight, a division closer to his natural size. Most of his past opponents have been larger than him, yet he has whittled them down with persistence and an awkward southpaw attack. Browning's not a big puncher, notes his trainer, Naazim Richardson, but an accumulation of his punches can gnaw on an opponent.

Richardson has been training Browning for almost two years, and senses a toughness about him that belies his mellow personality outside the ring. The trainer likes to tell the story of how, before one fight, Browning was left at the hotel because someone forgot to pick him up. Some fighters might have fallen apart over that. Not Browning. He just grinned and was happy to barely make it to the arena on time.

In Browning's six-round decision victory over Roger Brown in March, he gave away 10 pounds. Brown was sticking Browning on a pretty consistent basis early, only to have Hurricane survive the initial storm and rally back to almost stop his foe.

"A lot of top prospects don't show what Troy has, and that is toughness," claimed Richardson. "There are guys out there that have a lot of ability, and give you the flash, but then you have Troy. He can be overlooked because he's a workhorse kind of guy. There were some people in Philly that used to doubt his abilities. They don't anymore. What I'd like to change is his outlook. Troy has other abilities than to take shots; he's a much better boxer than he gives himself credit for."

Browning's progress, however, has been slowed by injuries. When he fought in 1996, his left knee would swell. He assumed it was just soreness, brought on by working all day and training at night. But when Richardson detected a unnatural tilt in Browning's balance, the trainer implored him to get his knees examined. Fluid was found on his knee, which required surgery.

Browning took '97 off to recover from the operation. He does not, however, lament over his bad fortune. Instead, he believes the layoff made him hungrier and forced him to refocus his goals. His manager, Rob Murray, sees '98 as the year for Browning to break away from the pack and make himself noticeable.

"We feel, and Troy feels, this is his time now," Murray said. "We'll put him up against anyone. We're just looking for an opportunity to show what he has."

Browning stumbled into boxing at 15, playing around in a neighbor's backyard. There was one kid in his neighborhood who had been boxing for a while, and to prove his ability, he challenged the other kids to have a go at him. Up stepped Browning, then a lean kid with an athletic background that included a couple of years of football and wrestling at Willingboro High.

To Browning's surprise, he held his own. An adult looking on suggested he check out the local gym and possibly think about boxing. Soon after graduating from high school and enlisting in the Army, that's exactly what Browning did. He won the all-Army Championship in 1989 as a welterweight, and after being discharged, turned professional at the relatively late age of 24. Browning is at a stage right now where he is still animated about his progress.

"Troy learns and learns well," Richardson said. "He executes. You usually have a guy that's 16-0 and is full of himself. Troy learns and he's genuinely disappointed when I'm not pleased. You usually get that kind of reaction with young kids, kids that want to learn and get better. Troy realizes this is in his best interest."

Since the death of his father, holding a championship belt over his head one day has become a quest for Browning. He still has vivid memories of the day his father died, and it's a memory he carries into the ring with him. After watching the NBA All-Star Game at his parents' home, he and his children went home, only a few blocks away. Upon his arrival, his mother was on the phone, screaming at him in a frantic state that something was wrong with his father. Half-an-hour later, his father was dead.

"Oh, you remember things like that," said Browning. "I've tried to turn the situation around and use it to help me. At least my father got to see his grandchildren and see me box. My wife and kids keep me motivated, and the memory of my father does too. I have to take care of my mother, so I'm hoping boxing will help me do that."

Time management may be a factor in how quickly Browning improves. Richardson feels his fighter has the skills and ability to be a contender, it's just a matter of how much quality training Browning is able to put into his workouts. The fighter wakes up early in the morning to run, comes home, showers, goes to work, then takes the trip to Philly to train.

(Continued on page 62)

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New Faces

(Continued from page 61)

It's a tedious schedule that does not permit him to step foot in his home until roughly 10 p.m. most nights.

"It'll make you stronger mentally," Richardson said, "but you're still dealing with human fatigue here. Eventually a hectic pace like that can wear you out."

Browning, however, views his itinerary differently. "I see it as a test of character," he said. "It really makes you wonder how much you want to succeed in boxing. I see guys fighting four-rounders making big money, and I'm over here busting my tail, trying to keep food on my table. The only thing I really want is an opportunity."

As he pulls into his driveway and turns off the car lights, Browning often sighs after another long day and smiles again. He just knocked out Vince Phillips for the junior welterweight championship of the world, and he has proudly raised the world title belt over his head. ■

Tuesday Night Fights

(Continued from page 34)

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Westbury, New York
Wildwood, New Jersey
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Baby Joe Gans

(Continued from page 47)

a.m. and took him for a ride along the Hudson River to discuss the cement overshoes they had for him should Gans be foolish enough to beat Van Klaveren.

"They say I must lose the fight and I don't argue with them," recalled Gans. "I say yes, 'I'm going to lose the fight.' All I want is to get away from those men."

Two days before the fight, Gans was summoned by New York boxing commissioners William Muldoon and James Farley, who mentioned rumors that the fight was in the bag for the Hollander and told Gans if he went through with the fix he was through with the ring.

Remembering it, Gans said: "I am going nuts. I don't know what to do. The commission's got me! The gangsters got me! If I win, I am dead. If I lose, I'm through. I walk down the street hopin' a taxi will hit me so I will not have to fight."

A cab didn't hit him, and in a straight fight, neither could have Van Klaveren. But it wasn't a straight fight, and though it took a lot of doing ("Every time I touched him, seems I hurt him."), Baby Joe lost the decision.

With that, the big-time career of the main inheritor of the original Joe Gans' mantle was effectively over, although Baby Joe continued to box—outside of New York—for a few more years. But a whole different, unanticipated career lay ahead, and got its start in a very unpropitious way. On New Year's Eve Day 1937, Gans was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to second his friend

William "Gorilla" Jones in a middleweight title bout against champion Freddie Steele. Jones lost, and his purse amounted to barely enough to pay his train fare home. Gans was broke and stranded 3,000 miles from home.

"The only way I could see to get home to Los Angeles was to start fightin' again to make some money," Gans recalled. But he never went home again, thanks to the handful of black youngsters who approached him in the summer of 1937 and asked Gans to train them for the next Golden Gloves tournament.

"I said, was there any place to train, and they told me the Urban League," Gans said. "They were so earnest about it, I said I would."

In fact, the Urban League building in Milwaukee had no training facilities at all then. "All we had was a hard floor and some benches. We put the benches in a square to make a ring. No ropes. No paddin'. Windows right alongside with nothin' over them," said Gans. "The Lord always takes care of fools and babies. Nobody got hurt." Not only that, his Urban League boxers won the team championship in the 1938 Milwaukee Golden Gloves tournament, the beginning of an unprecedented string of team titles and honors for Gans' fighters that ran right up until his death from a heart attack on April 20, 1959. But what the man who had once been chased by a criminal for beating a white fighter taught the thousands of kids, black and white, who were lucky enough to pass through his tiny gym over the span was more than just how to hit and block.

"Aside from being an instructor, Baby Joe was a rare individual who cared about the youngsters he trained," said LeRoy Allen, who won three Wisconsin Golden Gloves titles with Gans in the 1950s and had a brief but successful pro career. "His interests in black and white youngsters transcended his interest in our achieving greatness in the ring. It was his belief that, though we were individuals, we also were part of a greater whole, that, though we were individuals, we also were part of society as a whole."

And that society had no room for prejudice based on skin color. Gans had suffered from it too much himself to believe any other way. "Young people have to learn to abolish prejudices to get on in life," he once said. "Otherwise, it will be like an anchor weighing them down. I can speak from my own experiences. I remember chairs thrown at me when I beat a white boy in the ring. I've seen what it can do to people. Prejudice is our greatest enemy, and I've always tried to teach my boys respect for each other, regardless whether they were Negro or white."

Today, Allen is director of the Baby Joe Gans Foundation, which since 1986 has raised enough money to help send 12 Milwaukee-area youngsters to college. It's Allen's homage to another dream that Gans had for all the boxers who were known simply and proudly as "Joe's Boys."

"Joe wanted us to go to college," said Allen: "That's what he really wanted because he didn't get a chance to get a college education. 'If you get an education,' he'd say, 'they can't take it away from you.'"

A week after Gans' death, a Milwaukee alderman passed a formal resolution that stated, "No one will ever know how many youngsters he saved from trouble, as he was an inspirational force and he diverted a lot of boys from unwholesome to wholesome pursuits."

Almost four decades later, Joe's Boys still gather at reunions to celebrate their memories of the uncrowned champion to whom their successful lives would be worth more than a belt. In the early-'50s, a letter Gans received from a young white boxer proved better than any trophy or official proclamation that, like the man from whom he took his name, Baby Joe Gans was a master.

"Joe, your unselfishness and way of living is a credit both to boxing and your race. Any bad ideas that I had about other races have certainly been changed by you and most of the kids down at the Urban League. You probably get a certain satisfaction from the unselfish things you do. I'm sure that you will find an even greater reward in the kingdom of heaven," wrote Willie Opic. "If my kids grow up to be the man you are, I would be plenty satisfied."■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

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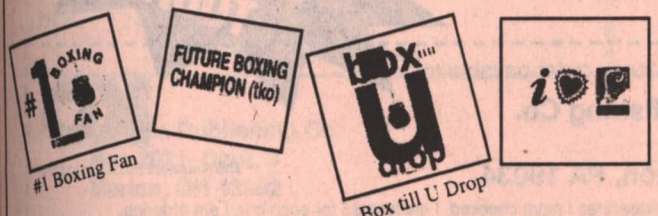

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Oscar De La Hoya

(Continued from page 39)

Trinidad and Ike Quartey a crack at The Golden Boy, no strings attached. "I don't want any options," barked Arum at the post-fight press conference in El Paso, while promising to pay both Trinidad and Quartey more money than they've ever earned before.

Nobody is saying what happened in El Paso signifies that De La Hoya is just as big throughout the country as he is in that West Texas city across the Rio Grande from Juarez, Mexico. Even though he was embraced by the entire city, the fact that a sizable percentage of the population is Hispanic was meaningful. It also helped that there are no major league sports franchises in El Paso, and that the community is hungry for big-time entertainment. Even so, it was quite a sight to see so many thousands of people at a boxing match, many of them demographically desirable (read young and reasonably affluent), the sort of consumers corporate America adores. Only two fights in the past 20 years have drawn larger crowds than De La Hoya-Charpentier in the United States. One was Ali-Leon Spinks II (a legend's last hurrah) in 1978, the other Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez (a genuine superfight) in '93.

It's going to take some time and a few more fights before we know to what extent Oscarmania will flourish. But there was something about the scene in El Paso the second week in June that was reminiscent of a certain concert four lads from Liverpool gave at Shea Stadium in 1965. Something new and exciting was happening, and this was the coming-out party.

Boxer as teen idol will undoubtedly rankle some purists, but even the most conservative of fans have to love the way De La Hoya turns into an elegant assassin when the bell rings. And if thousands of women screaming his name during fights is the price we have to pay to watch this unique fighter test his talent against the best of the rest, so be it. Because if one thing rang true in El Paso, it was that De La Hoya is the immediate future of boxing, a guy who can not only carry the sport on his back, but maybe even take it places it has never been before. ■

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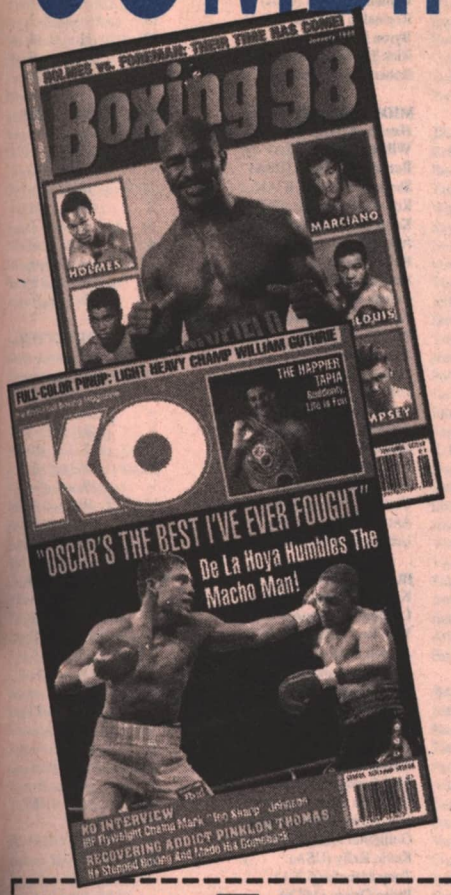

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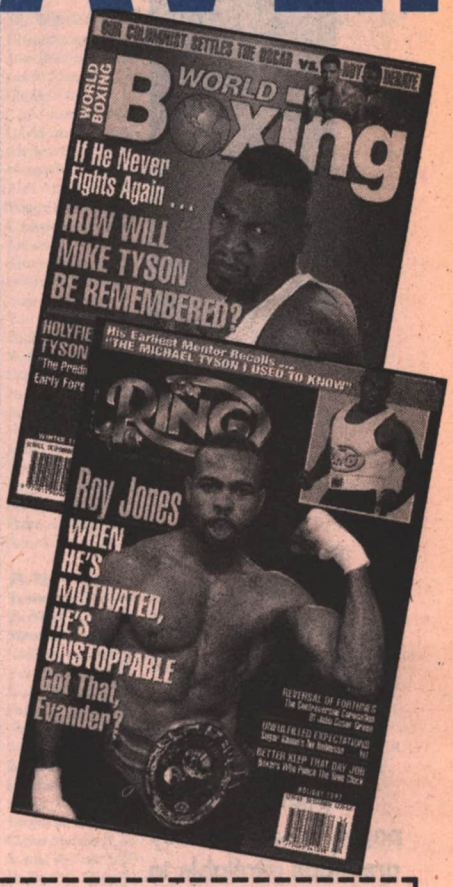

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of April 1998, the WBC as of June 1998, and the IBF as of June 1998.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	1	2	7
Ray Mercer (USA)	2	3	4
John Ruiz (USA)	3	5	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	4	–	–
David Tua (NZ)	5	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	6	–	10
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	7	–	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	8	–	–
Jerry Ballard (USA)	9	–	12
Andrew Golota (POL)	10	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	–	1	5
Jade Scott (USA)	18	4	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	21	6	6
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	7	–
Michael Grant (USA)	13	8	8
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	9	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	10	1
Francois Botha (SA)	27	11	2
Hasim Rahman (USA)	26	–	3
Chris Byrd (USA)	17	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	–	–	C
Johnny Nelson (GB)	1	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	2	2	6
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	3	10	3
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	4	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	5	–	–
Dale Brown (CAN)	6	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	7	3	1
Darren Corbett (IRE)	8	6	5
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	9	–	10
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Tiwon Taylor (USA)	27	4	8
Ken Murphy (USA)	12	5	4
Stefan Anghem (SWI)	13	7	7
Terry Dunstan (GB)	–	8	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	1	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	C	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	C	–	–
Richard Frazier (USA)	1	4	6
Ken Bowman (USA)	2	8	7
Montell Griffin (USA)	3	–	11
Michael Nunn (USA)	4	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	5	3	12
Jorge Castro (ARG)	6	–	–
Fabian Chancelay (ARG)	7	10	–
Mark Prince (GB)	8	–	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	9	–	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	10	–	–
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	–	2	–
Richard Hall (USA)	21	5	4
Ole Klemetsen (NOR)	–	6	10
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	7	–
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Taylor (USA)	14	–	3
Mark Prince (GB)	–	–	5
David Telesco (USA)	25	–	8
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	–	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	C
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	1	–	–
Robin Reid (GB)	2	–	12
Dean Francis (GB)	3	–	11
Thomas Tate (USA)	4	4	4
Eric Lucas (CAN)	5	5	–
Antoine Byrd (USA)	6	8	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	7	3	3
Omar Sheika (USA)	8	–	–
Chris Johnson (CAN)	9	–	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	10	10	6
Bruno Girard (FRA)	14	1	–
Dean Francis (GB)	–	2	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	–	6	–
Herol Graham (GB)	–	7	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	9	–
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Demetrius Davis (USA)	15	–	5
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	13	–	7
Byron Mitchell (USA)	20	11	8
Rick Thornberry (AUST)	–	–	9
Robert Coehlo (BRA)	16	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	11	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	1	12	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	2	5	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	3	–	7
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	4	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	5	–	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	6	–	–
Robert Allen (USA)	7	2	1
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	8	–	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	11	–
Alex Zaitzev (RUS)	10	–	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	25	3	9
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	4	6
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	6	–
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	7	10
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	22	8	5
Roberto Duran (PAN)	–	9	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	13	10	4
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Urbano Gurrola (MEX)	–	–	8

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Mullings (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	C
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	1	10	9
Tony Marshall (USA)	2	3	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	3	–	–
Terry Norris (USA)	4	–	12
David Reid (USA)	5	9	–
Kookyui Song (KOR)	6	–	–
Robert West (USA)	7	–	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	8	–	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	9	–	5
Jose Alfredo Flores (MEX)	10	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	1	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	11	2	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	4	–
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	5	–
Jason Papillion (USA)	21	6	3
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	7	6
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	25	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	23	–	4
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	7
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	8
Sergio Luciano (BRA)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	5	5
James Page (USA)	3	8	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	4	3	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	5	12	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	6	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	7	9	12
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	8	–	–
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	9	–	–
Sergio Acuna (ARG)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	15	2	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	4	11
Juan Negron (PR)	26	6	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Juan Carlos Candelo (COL)	–	10	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	1
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	2
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	3
Vernon Forrest (USA)	11	–	4
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	6
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	7
Antonio Marqurito (MEX)	–	–	8
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	–	–	9
Adrian Stone (GB)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	C	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	3	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	4	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	3	2	6
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Reggie Green (USA)	5	7	8
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	6	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	7	1	2
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	8	–	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	9	–	–
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	10	–	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	5	3
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	20	6	5
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	8	–
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	–	9	–
Junichi Ono (JAP)	–	10	–
Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	1
Zab Judah (USA)	–	12	4
Jonathan Thaxton (USA)	17	–	7
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	–	–	9
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	2	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	4	–	–
Israel Cardona (USA)	5	4	2
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	6	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	7	3	9
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	8	2	1
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	9	8	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	10	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	–	1	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	5	5
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	6	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	7	–
Colin Dunne (GB)	26	9	–
Manuel Fernandez (POR)	–	10	–
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	–	4
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	6
Ivan Robinson (USA)	–	–	7
Dario Esais (COL)	–	–	8
Wilfrido Ruiz (COL)	20	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	–	–	C
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	2	4	9
Justin Juuko (UGA)	3	7	8
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	4	–	–
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	5	–	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	6	–	7
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	7	–	–
Yamato Mitani (JAP)	8	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	9	–	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	10	11	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	19	2	–
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	–	3	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	5	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	6	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	8	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	14	9	–
Antonio Hernandez (MEX)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	3
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	12	–	4
Arnulfo Castillo (USA)	–	–	5
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	6
Juan Trinidad (PR)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	C	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	2	8
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	3	–	7
Derrick Gainer (USA)	4	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	5	–	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	6	11	–
Drumane Nabaloun (BKF)	7	–	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	8	–	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	9	9	–
Injin Chi (KOR)	10	–	–
Genaro Rios (NIC)	–	1	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	1
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	5	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	6	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	26	7	2
Chamopekt Chorchamuang (THAI)	–	8	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	10	3
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	4
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	5
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	–	6
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	24	–	9
Teofilo Carranza (PER)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	2	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	3	7	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	4	12	4
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	5	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	6	–	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	7	2	–
Yonghoon Lee (KOR)	8	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	9	–	–
Sergio Aguila (MEX)	10	–	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	1	–
John Johnson (USA)	–	3	3
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	19	4	10
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	5	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	6	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	15	8	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	14	9	–
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	10	–
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	–	–	5
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	16	–	6
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	7
Ariston Clayton (USA)	13	–	8
Esteban Morales (COL)	29	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Paul Ayala (USA)	1	2	12
Adan Vargas (MEX)	2	–	7
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	3	–	8
Danny Romero (USA)	4	–	–
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	5	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	6	4	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	7	–	–
Oscar Garro (ARG)	8	–	9
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	9	–	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	10	–	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	12	3	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	5	–
Sahoiu Phaisarn Gym (THA)	–	6	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	24	7	4
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	8	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	9	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	27	–	3
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	5
Albert Resilay (INDO)	–	–	6
Cesar Singo (ECU)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	C	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	–	C
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	4	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	3	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	4	10	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	5	–	–
Victor Godoy (ARG)	6	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	7	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	8	–	–
Genaro Garcia (MEX)	9	–	–
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	10	12	2
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	26	1	3
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	11	2	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	–	3	–
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	5	12
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	6	–
Takato Toguchi (JAP)	–	7	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	8	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	–	9	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	1
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	–	4
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	5
Eric Morel (USA)	15	–	6
David Vinger (SA)	25	–	7
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	–	–	8
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	9
Pedro Rincon (COL)	30	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	C	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	2	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	3	8	1
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	–	–
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	5	5	–
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	6	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	7	–	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	8	–	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	9	–	–
Alfonso Zvenyika (ZIM)	10	–	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	–	3	6
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	4	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	11	6	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	7	3
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	9	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	4
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	5
Ilido Julio (COL)	20	–	7
Jose Landin (USA)	–	–	8
Pedro Alcazar (PAN)	–	–	9
Adey Lewis (GB)	18	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	C
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	–
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	3	1	1
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	4	–	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	5	–	–
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	6	4	10
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	7	–	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	8	8	–
Sangik Yang (KOR)	9	–	–
Sandre Oviedo (ARG)	10	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	17	2	5
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	3	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	5	–
Oswaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	6	–
Medngon 3K Battery (THAI)	–	7	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	–	9	–
Linglom Tawatchai (THAI)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	3
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	4
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	6
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	–	7
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	13	–	8
Hernan Berrio (COL)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Zolani Petelo (SA)	26	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Wandee Chareon (THAI)	2	–	–
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	3	8	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	4	–	4
Lindi Memani (SA)	5	12	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	6	9	2
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	7	–	–
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	8	–	–
Daniel Reyes (COL)	9	–	5
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	10	–	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	3	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	11	5	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	6	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	27	7	–
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	10	9
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	1
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	3
Eric Jamili (PHIL)	20	–	6
Jose Laureano (PR)	–	–	7
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	8
Denkaosan Kaowichit (THAI)	–	–	10

RING CLASSIC

GOLDEN TOURS

Jack Dempsey remained a big draw well after his prime. Five years following his last fight, "The Manassa Mauler" established an indoor attendance record boxing an exhibition against King Levinsky.

From THE RING, March 1949

By Al Buck

He isn't the first champion to go on an exhibition tour—John L. Sullivan did it way back when—but Joe Louis is second only to Jack Dempsey as an attraction in cities and towns throughout the United States. One might say the best in the world, if it were not for the fact that "The Brown Bomber" flopped financially at the Health and Holiday show in London, England, last year.

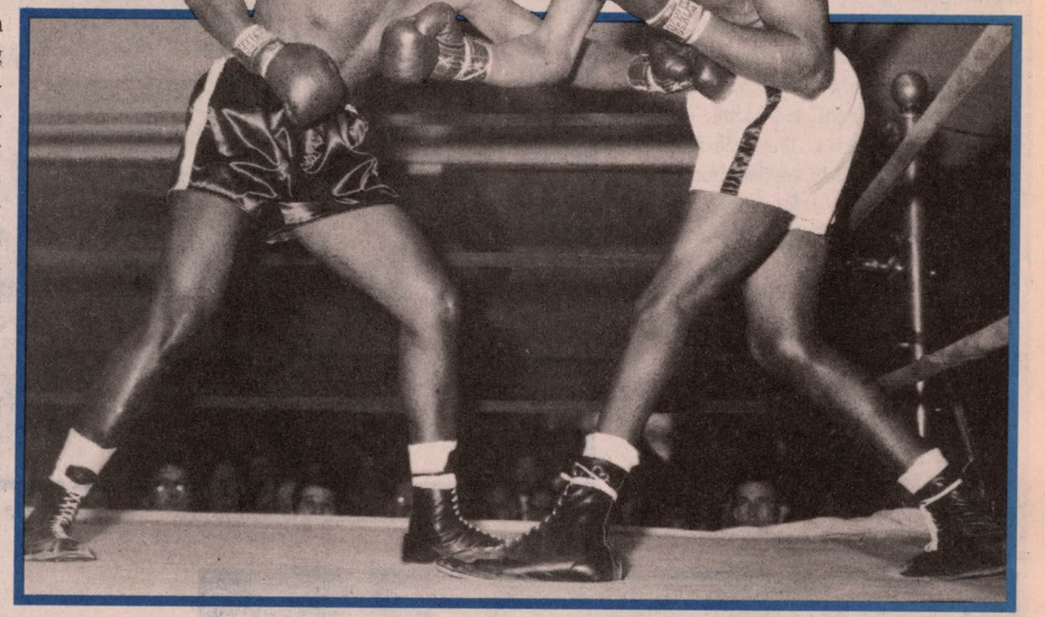
It was a "Golden Tour" that Louis completed just before Christmas, and according to Harry Mendel, the former six-day bike race promoter who is booking the champion, it is only the beginning. In appearances from Washington to Kansas City, the heavyweight champion grossed $300,000. He was paid one-third, amounting to $100,000 for his personal efforts, which consisted of boxing from four to six rounds at each port of call with 12- or 14-ounce gloves.

Soon after the new year got underway, Louis went off again on another tour, and before he defends the heavyweight title in June, something he says now he will do, he can reasonably expect to pick up another $100,000. This latest tour took him to the Midwest and Southern grounds.

Dempsey did better financially, but the old "Manassa Mauler" is without a doubt the most popular pugilist, past or present, in America. Back in 1932, five years after his last fight, Dempsey established an indoor attendance record boxing an exhibition with King Levinsky in the Chicago Stadium. There were 29,988 fans in the Stadium and the gross was $74,200. And that was in the middle of the Great Depression!

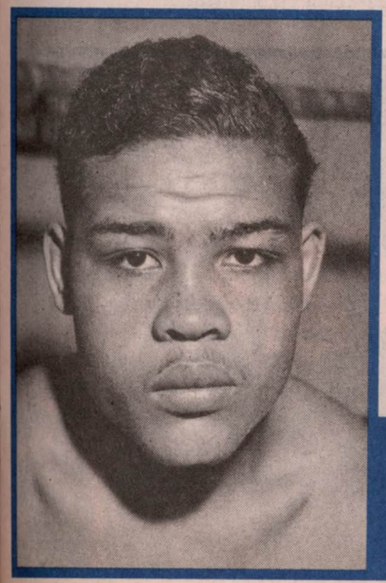
In Cleveland with Jimmy Bivins, Louis drew $47,000. This was tops for the champion during his exhibition campaign of 1948 that followed Louis' 11th-round triumph over Jersey Joe Walcott. Also, the Bivins bout serves as a fair comparison to the Levinsky match.

Dempsey and Levinsky boxed four rounds. After they finished, a poll was taken among boxing writers at ringside. They gave the decision—an entirely unofficial one—to Levinsky. The same thing happened to Louis in Cleveland. For weeks before he was to box Bivins in a six-round bout, promoter Larry Atkins was sending out publicity that should Louis be knocked out, he would lose the title. He also arranged to poll the boxing writers after the exhibition. Their decision—also unofficial—made Bivins the winner.



Jimmy Bivins, pictured in the dark trunks in a 10-round victory against Doc Williams, scored an unofficial win over heavyweight champ Joe Louis when writers thought that Bivins got the better of their exhibition bout.

Having witnessed the six-round bout, the writers voted for Bivins, but truthfully, it wasn't in any sense of the word a fight. Louis was in no condition to begin with. He must have weighed about 230 pounds. Both boxers wore 14-ounce gloves. Bivins was content to peck away with a left jab, and Louis, who entered the ring with a cut eye, was satisfied to protect the wound.



Louis liked exhibition tours. It was easy money and he didn't have to train. When he had his exhibition bout with Bivins, he was woefully out of shape at around 230 pounds, and protecting a nasty eye cut injured in a previous exhibition.

The eye was cut a week previously when Louis boxed Johnny Shkor in Boston. They bumped heads, and Louis got the worst of things. Nevertheless, the champ, who doesn't wear a head guard in his exhibitions, maintained his schedule, going from Boston to Cleveland, from Cleveland to Detroit, from Detroit to St. Louis, and on to Kansas City.

Only once did Louis have the same opponent. He boxed Edward Comiskey in Washington, D.C., and again in Paterson, New Jersey. He met two former challengers for the title—Billy Conn in Chicago and Arturo Godoy in Philadelphia. Neither showed enough to qualify for a third crack at the heavyweight crown, each having clashed twice with The Brown Bomber.

As Louis explains, the pay is good and the work isn't hard. It differs from an actual fight in that he doesn't have to train. With Marshall Miles, his manager; Mannie Seamon, his trainer; and Mendel, his booking agent, the heavyweight champion goes from town to town picking up stray dollars in large quantities.

Dempsey, restless and aggressive, never cared much about the opposition. Anybody would do—K.O. Christner, Buck Everett, Jack Roper, or Babe Hunt. Some he knocked out; others he outpointed. He even took on Cowboy Luttrell, a wrestler, in Atlanta, a bout refereed by Nat Fleischer, and knocked out the kicking Cowboy. One tour netted $259,949, another $291,842, and a third $246,066. He must have made a million more as a referee since then.

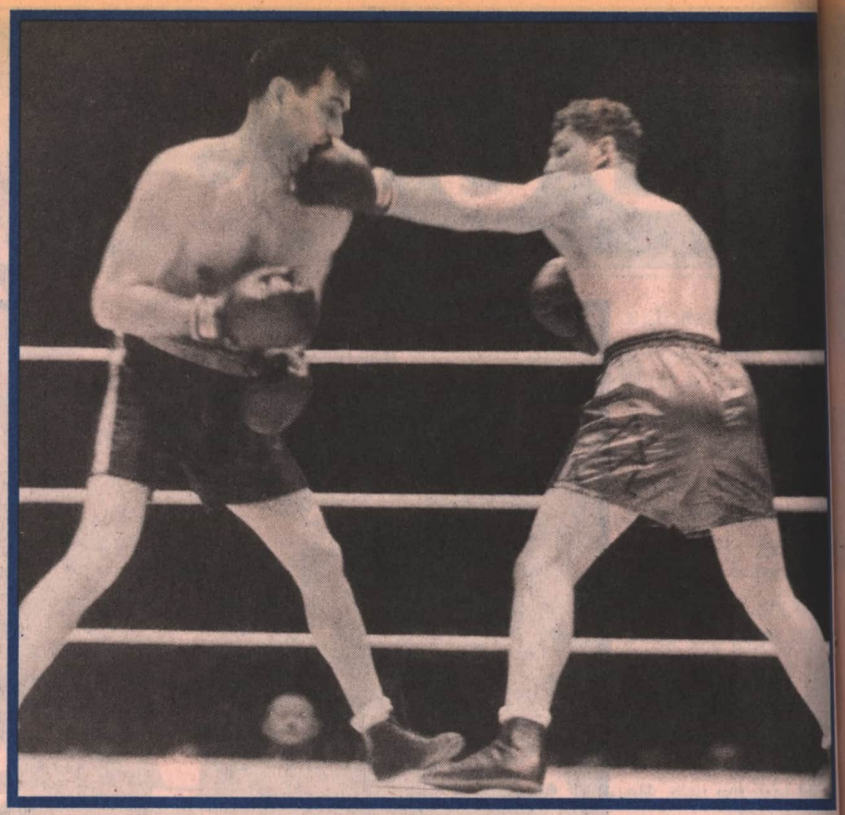
Louis' appearance in London's Health and Holiday Exhibition in Earl's Court

wasn't the success that was anticipated when he sailed for London. He boxed three times a day, but the people stayed away. Sometimes not more than a dozen persons, each paying about 40 cents, watched the heavyweight champion as he worked out.

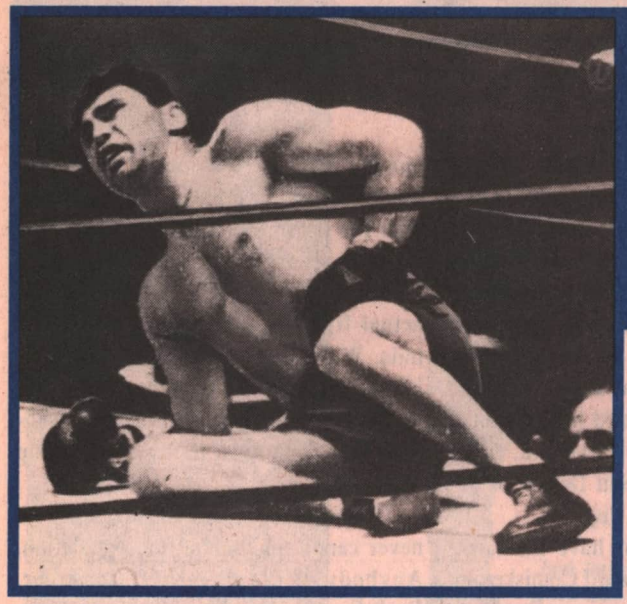
The champion received $80,000 for a month's work, but the promoter of the Exposition dropped about $400,000. It wasn't entirely Louis' fault. British sportswriters panned him, not realizing that he had no intention of knocking out his sparring partner. The weather was cold, too, and Englishmen had much more important things to worry about. He appeared briefly in Europe where he was much more favorably received.

Louis also boxed in South America, having gone there in '47 when the 20th Century Sporting Club was unable to produce a challenger formidable enough to fill Yankee Stadium. The tour was arranged by the late Bill McCarney, who years previously had booked Max Schmeling throughout the United States. Unlike Louis and Dempsey, the German was unpopular with American fans. One night in Columbus, Georgia, the angry customers demanded their money back. That didn't take that long, as there were only 450 present.

Of course, Schmeling won the title on a foul, and then ducked fighting Jack Sharkey, the outstanding challenger, for two years. The fans didn't seem to feel that Schmeling was a real ring champion.



Ex-champ Dempsey takes a shot in the mouth from Levinsky during their four-round exhibition that drew a record crowd of 29,988 at Chicago Stadium in 1932.

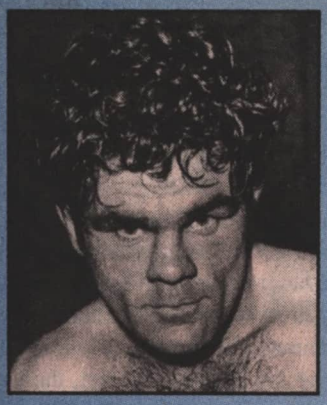


Some fans did not consider Max Schmeling a real champion after he won the heavyweight title from Jack Sharkey on a foul in 1930. Consequently, Schmeling failed to receive much attention from the American public.

Take the experience of the Texas promoter who had Dempsey for five cities and packed 'em in all over the circuit. Then he booked Schmeling to appear in Houston, San Antonio, Fort Worth, and Dallas. In Dallas, where Dempsey drew $15,000, Schmeling drew $3,000. Two of Schmeling's dates were canceled. What the promoter had made on Dempsey, he lost later on Schmeling.

Dempsey made nearly $1-million as a referee. One Texas promoter took a chance on both Schmeling and Dempsey. The money the promoter made on Dempsey, he later lost on Schmeling.

THE RING RATINGS, March 1949



Freddie Mills

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Joe Walcott
2. Ezzard Charles
3. Lee Savold
4. Johnny Flynn
5. Joey Maxim
6. Jimmy Bivins
7. Joe Kahut
8. Rusty Payne
9. Pat Valentino
10. Freddie Beshore

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Freddie Mills
1. Gus Lesnevich
2. Leonard Morrow
3. Archie Moore
4. Dave Sands
5. Lloyd Marshall
6. Doc Williams
7. Billy Smith
8. Artie Levine
9. Henry Hall
10. Dave Whitlock

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marcel Cerdan
1. Bert Lytell
2. Steve Belloise
3. Jake LaMotta
4. Tony Zale
5. Cyrille Delannoit
6. Sylvester Perkins
7. Dick Turpin
8. Robert Villemain
9. Lee Sala
10. Rocky Graziano

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Robinson
1. Kid Gavilan
2. Frankie Fernandez
3. Bernard Docusen
4. Johnny Greco
5. Beau Jack
6. Gene Burton
7. Johnny Cesario
8. Charley Fusari
9. Charley Williams
10. Vince Foster

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ike Williams
1. Enrique Bolanos
2. Freddie Dawson
3. Maxie Docusen
4. Tommy Campbell
5. Arthur King
6. Jesse Flores
7. Johnny Williams
8. Paddy DeMarco
9. Carlos Chavez
10. Pierre Montane

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandy Saddler
1. Willie Pep
2. Ray Famechon
3. Jackie Graves
4. Tirso del Rosario
5. Eddie Miller
6. Johnny Molloy
7. Elis Ask
8. Eddie Compo
9. Henry Davis
10. Miguel Acevedo

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Manuel Ortiz
1. Cecil Schoonmaker
2. Luis Romero
3. Guido Ferracin
4. Memo Valero
5. David Kui Kong Young
6. Chico Rosa
7. Jackie Paterson
8. Stan Rowan
9. Theo Medina
10. Luis Galvani

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Rinty Monaghan
1. Maurice Sandeyron
2. Dickie O'Sullivan
3. Dado Marino
4. Black Pico
5. Louis Skena
6. Al Chavez
7. Emile Famechon
8. Charley Squire
9. Honore Pratesi
10. Norman Tennant

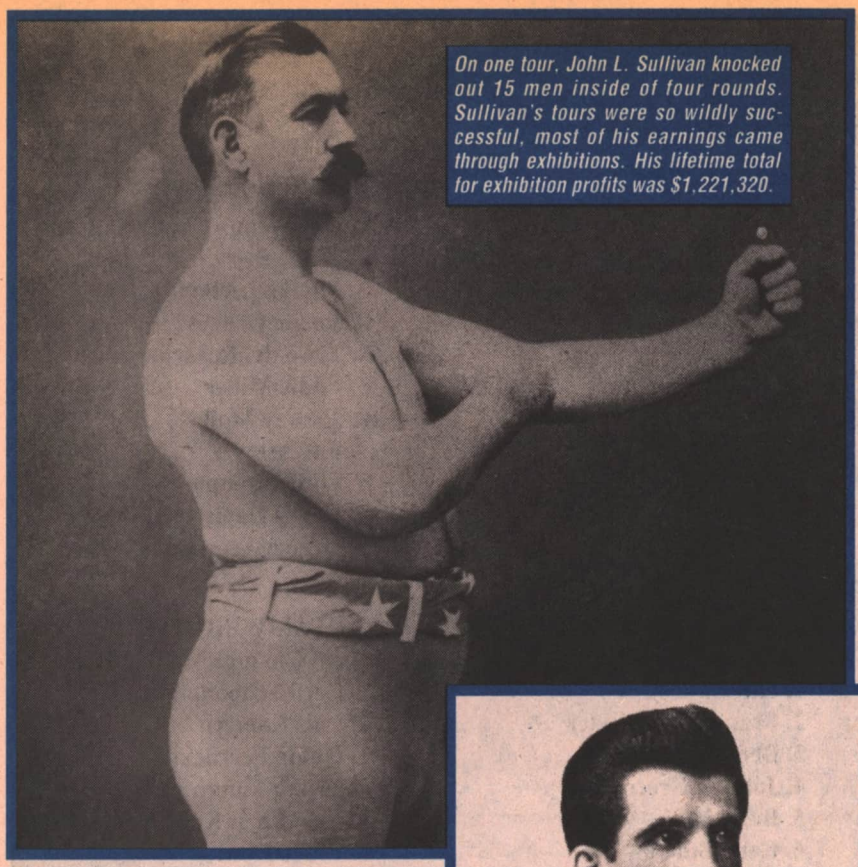
Of course, there was a bright spot here and there—in Berlin, for example—where 10,000 Germans turned out to see their champion box a four-round exhibition. But even there he was jeered from the galleries for failing to engage in a real fight.

Prior to his fight with Max Baer, Schmeling toured with Dempsey. Schmeling boxed and Dempsey refereed. The fans came, apparently, to see the referee.

How long the fistic faithful will come out to see the champions in sham battles will depend on that modern gadget called television. When the time comes when title fights are televised coast-to-coast, the fans may insist on the real thing as it comes into their parlor, instead of a meaningless exhibition in the local arena.

It wasn't like that in John L. Sullivan's day. No television, no radio, no movies, and no automobiles. Just "Mighty John L.," the greatest of 'em all. On one tour, Sullivan knocked out 15 men inside of four rounds.

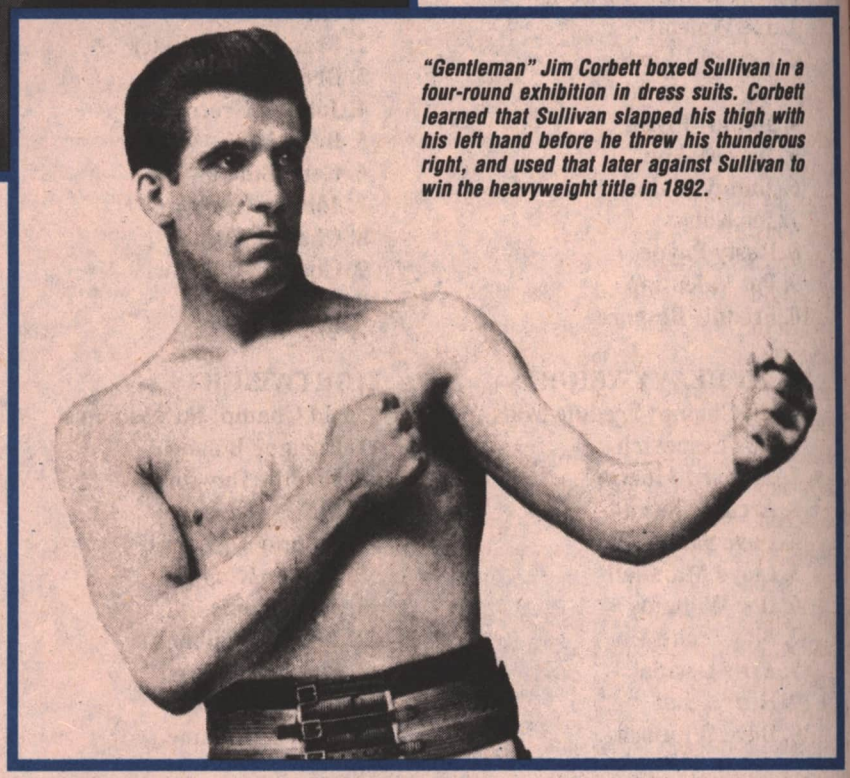
The Sullivan tours were tremendous successes from a financial standpoint. In 1882, he cleaned up $105,000. His tour with Al Smith in 1884 was good for $195,000. In 1887, John L. picked up $110,000 by boxing exhibitions in England. Down in Australia, he received $58,000. As a matter of record, most of Sullivan's earnings came from exhibi-



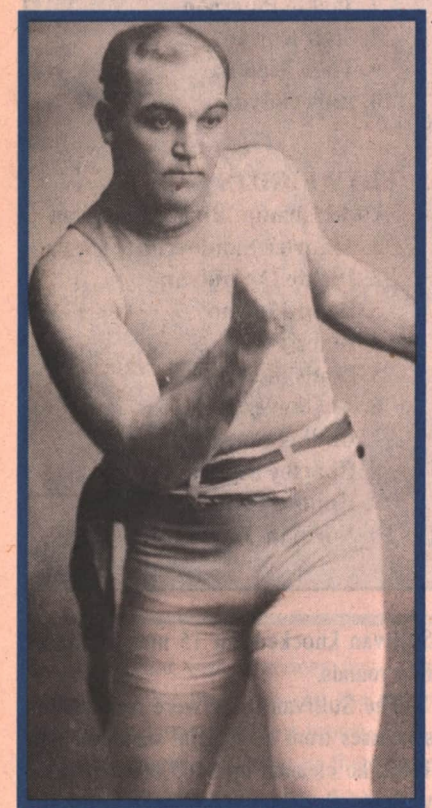
On one tour, John L. Sullivan knocked out 15 men inside of four rounds. Sullivan's tours were so wildly successful, most of his earnings came through exhibitions. His lifetime total for exhibition profits was $1,221,320.

him as heavyweight champion. Corbett had just finished his famous 65-round "no contest" with Peter Jackson when John L. arrived in San Francisco. A testimonial was planned for Corbett in the Opera House, and Sullivan, who was playing in *Honest Hands And Willing Hearts,* was asked to box the local hero.

The champion agreed, but when the night of the testimonial came, he insisted that he and Corbett wear dress suits. Nothing would persuade him to appear in tights. He was John L. Sullivan, the champion, and it would be evening clothes or no exhibition. They boxed four, bloodless, one-minute rounds more or less to the disgust of the crowd. And yet, during this senseless performance, Corbett noticed that before John L. loosened his murderous right, he always slapped his thigh with his



"Gentleman" Jim Corbett boxed Sullivan in a four-round exhibition in dress suits. Corbett learned that Sullivan slapped his thigh with his left hand before he threw his thunderous right, and used that later against Sullivan to win the heavyweight title in 1892.



Former heavyweight champ James Jeffries prided himself on never being knocked off his feet in the ring—that is, until his exhibition bout against Jack Munroe. Jeffries then granted Munroe a title shot, where he easily dispatched the challenger, but not before tasting the canvas again.

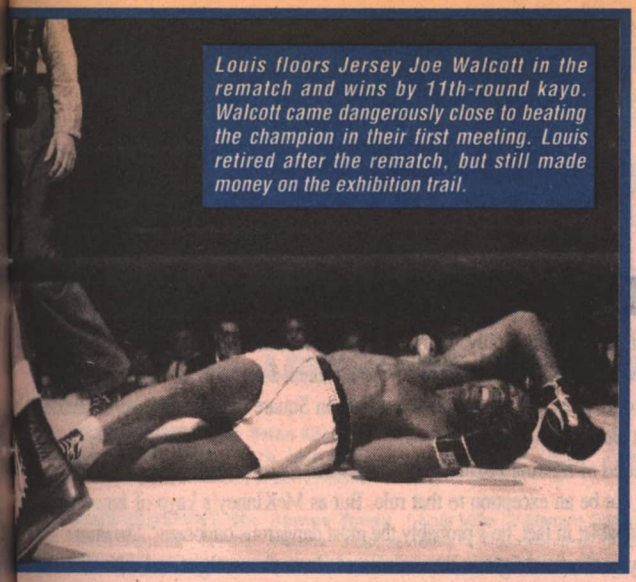
tions. His lifetime total was $1,221,320, as compared to Dempsey's $3,163,114 and Louis' $3,115,600.84. Of course, there were no income taxes in Sullivan's day.

Sullivan's trick was to offer $50 to any yokel who could stay five rounds with him. Their names didn't make the record books, and most of them were knocked out and forgotten. However, there is one Sullivan exhibition that will long be remembered. In it, he boxed James J. Corbett, the young bank clerk who was destined to succeed

left hand. He remembered that when they fought in New Orleans and it was a contributing factor to his victory. In fact, it was a right, thrown as Sullivan was slapping his thigh, that broke the champion's nose in the second round. Corbett hadn't wasted the evening he boxed Sullivan while wearing a dress suit.

Perhaps the most famous exhibition of them all was the one in which James J. Jeffries almost lost the heavyweight title to Jack Munroe, then an unknown. Jeffries

THE RING, March 1949



Louis floors Jersey Joe Walcott in the rematch and wins by 11th-round kayo. Walcott came dangerously close to beating the champion in their first meeting. Louis retired after the rematch, but still made money on the exhibition trail.

was touring with Bob Fitzsimmons, meeting all comers. In Butte, Montana, there were two challengers, and Fitzsimmons took on the first one. This nameless hero was belted out in a punch. Next came Munroe, and he was Jeffries' man.

Jeffries insists he let Munroe stay three rounds in order to entertain the fans. In the fourth round, the champion either slipped or was knocked down. The latter version was the accepted account, and probably the true one. Because he boasted he had never been knocked off of his feet, Jeffries was furious. There had to be a fight of course, a real one with the title at stake. "Sunny Jim" Coffroth was the promoter. The date was August 26, 1904, and the place San Francisco.

When the gong sounded, Jeffries led with his right, but missed. He swung so hard that he threw himself entirely off his feet and he sprawled on his hands and knees on the canvas. The Butte incident had been repeated, Jeffries was down again. Jeffries leaped to his feet, but curbing his temper, settled down to box. Munroe tried to cross a right to the jaw. Jeffries countered with a short left hook and the challenger went down. He got up and clinched desperately and hung on until the bell.

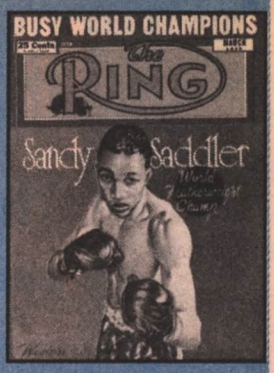
The second round only lasted a minute. Under Jeffries' two-handed attack, Munroe was reeling about the ring in a dazed condition. Then he crumbled to the canvas, and referee Eddie Graney stopped what had become a slaughter.

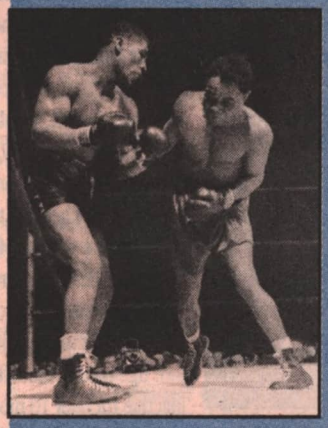
Jeffries went on an exhibition tour shortly before he made his ill-fated comeback, and when he noticed he was tiring easily almost gave up the idea of fighting Jack Johnson. He didn't and what happened to him at Reno, Nevada, is history. Jeffries, like Sullivan, had stayed around for one fight too many.

Louis, who announced his retirement only to be persuaded to change his mind, may meet a similar fate. Every heavyweight champion, with the exception of Gene Tunney, has lingered too long in the ring and has eventually gone down in defeat.

Before he does fight again, either against Ezzard Charles or Lou Savold, Louis will have gone west to California and south to Florida, boxing this and that heavyweight in a continuous string of exhibition bouts. The most recent tour brought a shower of gold, and Louis will get much more of the same before crawling through the ropes to defend the title for the 26th time. ■

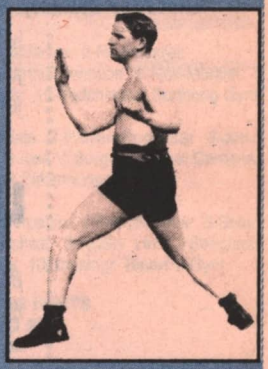
The Cover: THE RING takes a look at featherweight champion Sandy Saddler, who won the title from Willie Pep in October '48. Following in the footsteps of such great 126-pound champions as Pep, Abe Attell, Henry Armstrong, and Kid Chocolate, Saddler had a lot to live up to.



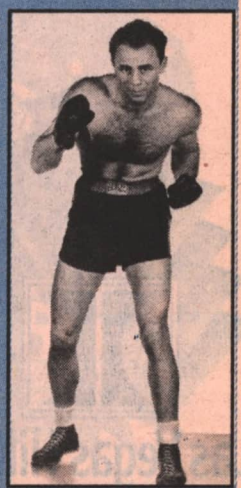


No Beau Gest: Beau Jack is one of the featured fighters in the "Spotlight" section. The former lightweight champion, shown against the ropes in a 10-round decision over Henry Armstrong in April of '43, made the move up to welterweight in 1949.

Britain's Best: THE RING recalls the distinguished career of Owen Moran, who was considered one the greatest ringmen Britain ever produced. During his career, Moran knocked out Battling Nelson in 11 rounds in 1910 and fought featherweight champion Abe Attell. Noted for his two-handed punching power and speed, Moran was a real mechanic in the ring.



The Little Tiger: THE RING remembers the stunning punching power of Battling Nelson, a former lightweight champion who held the title from 1908 to 1910. His peculiar style called for resting his head on an opponent's shoulder and banging away at the body.



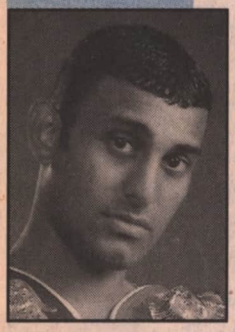
Fighter Of The Month: Steve Belloise inched closer to the middleweight championship by beating Robert Villemain in convincing fashion at Madison Square Garden. Using pinpoint accuracy, Belloise ripped apart the Frenchman as he lifted himself to number two in THE RING ratings.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

HAMED VS. McKINNEY: A SPOOK-OUT DUKE-OUT

Kennedy McKinney has waited patiently to get his hands (specifically, the right one) on **Naseem Hamed**, and he'll finally get his opportunity on October 31, Halloween night. According to HBO Sports Senior Vice President **Lou DiBella**, both sides, as well as HBO, had agreed to the fight as of mid-June. The only party yet to commit was Madison Square Garden, the site of Hamed's U.S. debut and McKinney's upset of **Junior Jones** last December.



Hamed and McKinney: Halloween havoc

Hamed has been accused of fighting boxing's best only when the opponent is past his prime, and McKinney, at 32, would not be an exception to that rule. But as McKinney's kayo of Jones proved, "The King" is still very capable; in fact, he's probably the most dangerous opponent "The Prince" has ever faced. This will only be the third fight in the undefeated Hamed's six-fight deal with HBO, but DiBella didn't hesitate to push for it despite the risk for his flamboyant featherweight.

"Fighters win and fighters lose," DiBella said, "and Hamed can still be an attraction if he loses. It's not in HBO's interest to protect any fighter—not **Oscar De La Hoya**, not **Roy Jones**, and not Naseem Hamed."

The fight was originally scheduled for July 18, but had to be postponed when Hamed suffered a torn ligament in his left hand in training. By the time October rolls around, McKinney will have been inactive for over 10 months. Nonetheless, he's not too concerned about being rusty.

"Hamed's a lot of hype, and I'm looking to knock him out," McKinney said. "I don't know if he has a chin at all. He's a short man with short arms, so I'll just pop him with my jab, and hopefully frustrate him by catching him jumping in. He's good at moving his body and his head, and you have to be patient with him. **Kevin Kelley** had the perfect plan, he just didn't listen to his corner and got too caught up with trying to knock him out."

While McKinney and Hamed look to trick each other, this Halloween provides a guaranteed treat for boxing fans.

LISTEN UP

Judah: Aiming for Tszyu

Another fight card recently announced for HBO is the return of **Arturo Gatti** on an August 22 *Boxing After Dark* telecast. The former IBF junior lightweight champ will face **Ivan Robinson**, while fast-rising **Fernando Vargas** takes on New England's **Jose Rivera** in the co-feature ... **Main Events** and HBO began discussions in June regarding tying **Michael Grant** into a long-term contract with the network. "Michael is the most advanced and talented of the young heavyweights, and we don't want him fighting anywhere else," DiBella said ... In other heavyweight news, **Darroll Wilson** signed with **America Presents** and fought under their promotional banner for the first time in June, and two-time former champion **Michael Moorer** is expected to return to the ring in September ... Fresh off a solid win over veteran **Mickey Ward** on June 7, junior welter prospect **Zab Judah** began setting his sights on **Kostya Tszyu**, a move many feel he's not ready for. Judah's trainer, **Lou Duva**, responded, "What's the point in waiting? Zab's the best young junior welterweight in the world, and I think he's too fast for Tszyu. He knocks Tszyu out" ... IBF lightweight champ **Shane Mosley** was hoping to face **Stevie Johnston** in the fall, but Johnston's unexpected loss to **Cesar Bazan** fouled up those plans. But from the ashes has emerged a potentially even better fight, as efforts are being made to pair Mosley with IBF junior welter champ **Vince Phillips** in December.

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Laurent Boudouani	Guillermo Jones	7-5	So evenly matched, why not do it a third time?
Bernard Hopkins	William Joppy	2½-1	Nobody beats Hopkins at 160 pounds
Tim Austin	Nana Konadu	2½-1	Konadu is good. Austin is very good
Michael Grant	Chris Byrd	3-1	Byrd can beat most heavies, but not Grant
Arturo Gatti	Kevin Kelley	9-5	Gatti has too much firepower
Lennox Lewis	Zeljko Mavrovic	12-1	Zeljko who?

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LATEST IBO WORLD RATINGS AS OF MAY 1998

HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Brian Nielson 1-Michael Moorer 2-Larry Donald 3-Henry Akinwande 4-Chris Byrd 5-Mike Grant 6-Shannon Briggs 7-George Foreman 8-Oliver McCall 9-Larry Holmes 10-Haslm Rahman

CRUISERWEIGHT Ch: James Toney 1-Nate Miller 2-Marcelo Dominguez 3-Terry Dunstan 4-Arthur Williams 5-James Toney 6-Saul Montanai 7-Johnny Nelson 8-Ralf Rocchigiani 9-Alexander Courov 10-Don Diego Poeder

LT. HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Drake Thadzi 1-Koy Jonesl 2-Virgil Hill 3-Montell Griffin 4-Ole Klemetsen 5-Henry Wharton 6-Jorge Castro 7-Mohamed Siluvang 8-Frank Tato 9-Ken Bowman 10-Merqui Sosa

SP. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Mads Larsen 1-Robin Reid 2-Vincenzo Nardiello 3-Henry Wharton 4-Roberto Duran 5-Dean Francis 6- Herol Graham 7-Vinny Paxieriza 8-Robert Allen 9-Thomas Tate 10-Reginaldo Andrade

MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Freeman Barr 1-Julio Cesar Creen 2-Silvio Branco 3-Julio Cesar Vasquez 4-Paul Vaden 5-Andrew Council 6-DarrenMaciunsk 7-Antolne Echols 8-Robert McCracken 9-Dana Rosenblatt 10-Brian Barbosa

LT. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Raul Marquez 2-Terry Norris 3-Verno Phillips 4-Tony Marshall 5-Julian Jackson 6-Bronco McKart 7-Troy Waters 8-Quirino Carcia 9-Harry Simon- 10-Mamadou Thlam

WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Jose Rivera 1-Pernell Whitaker 2-Oba Carr 3-Partick Charpentier 4-Jose Luis Lopez 5-Alessandro Duran 6-Hector Camacho 7-Peter Malinga 8-Shannan Taylo 9-Larry Barnes 10-Derrell Coley

LT. WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Johar Lashin 1-Juan Martin Coggl 2-Juilo Cesar Chavez 3-Miquel A. Gonzalez 4-Kostya Tszyu 5-Soren Sondergaard 6-Michey Ward 7-Rafael Ruelas 8-Carlos Gonzalez 9-Alfonso Sanchez 10-Charles Murray

LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Tony Pep 1-Juan Molina 2-George Scott 3-Phillip Holiday 4- Alberto Sicurella 5-David O Tetten 6-Billy Irwin 7-Levander Johnson 8-Edward B. Morales 9-Carlos Fernandez 10-Israel Cardona

SP. FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Azumah Nelson 2-Arturo Gatti 3-Tom Johnson 4-Gabriel Ruelas 5-Orlando Canizales 6-Tracy Patterson 7-Angel Manfreddy 8-Julien Lorcy 9-Anatoly Alexandrov 10-Derrick Gainer

FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Radford Beasley 1-Kevin Kelly 2-Billy Hardy 3-Steve Robinson 4-Claudio V. Martinet 5-Manuel Medina 6-Cesar Soto 7-Juan Man Marquez 8-Hector Acero-Sanchez 9-Carlos A. Rios 10-Mehdi Labduoni

SP. BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Junior Jones 2-Daniel Zaragoza 3-Marco A. Barrera 4-Danny Romero 5-Jesus Salud 6-Casius Baloyi 7-Wayne McCullough 8-Rafael Del Valle 9-Spencer Ollver 10-Lehio Ledwaba

BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Johnny Bredahl 1-Daorung Siriwat 2-Paul Ayala 3-Mbulelo Botile 4-Sirimongkol Singmanassak 5-Cuautemoc Gomez 6-Dario Azuaga 7-Victor Rabanales 8-Oscar Garro 9-Sergio Millan 10-Lakhin CP-Gym

SP. FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Hirosni Kawashima 2-Samson Dutchboy Gym 3-Yokthai Sith Oar 4-Oscar Archinega 5-Alberto Jimenez 6-Hugo Soto 7-Luigi Castiglione 8-Adonis Cruz 9-Suvatchai Chalermri 10-Hiroki Ioka

FLYWEIGHT Ch: Scotty Olson 1-Yuri Arbachakov 2-Raul Juarez 3-Keiji Yamaguchi 4-Sornpich Pisnurachank 5-Arthur Johnson 6-Alex Montiel 7-David Guerault 8-Zohle Mbityi 9-Ysaias Zamudio 10-Yodchinchai Sorthong Gym

LT. FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Jake Matlala 2-Panien Poontarat 3-Jesus Chong 4-Mongkol L.G. Gym 5-Joma Ganboa 6-Jose V. Burgos 7-Edgar Cardenas 8-Carlos Murillo 9-Mzukisi Skalli 10-Pongsaklak Sitkanongaok

STRAWWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Chiana Porpaoin 2-Neo Seboka 3-Solani Pethelo 4-Ratanapol Vorsurapin 5-Alex Sanchez 6-Rocky Lin 7-Songkram Porpaoin 8-Rolando Tuyugon 9-Kermin Guardia 10-Yodsingh Tabaimo Gym

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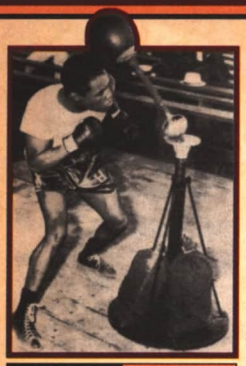
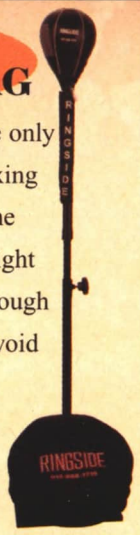


COBRA REFLEX BAG



Henry Armstrong is the only man in the history of boxing to simultaneously hold the title in three separate weight divisions. He did this through his masterful ability to avoid being hit. His cobra-like reflexes and hand speed are the mark of a true champion in any era.

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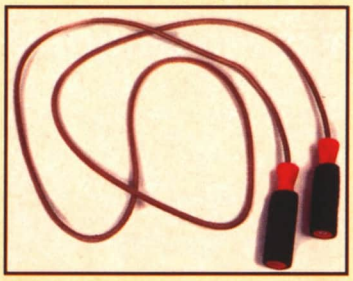
Even a young **Sonny Liston** knew the importance of foot speed and endurance. A good speed rope is **vital** to gaining durability and the agility needed in the ring.



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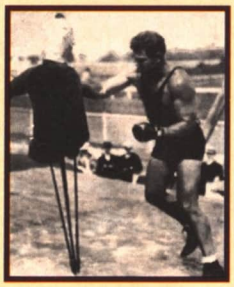
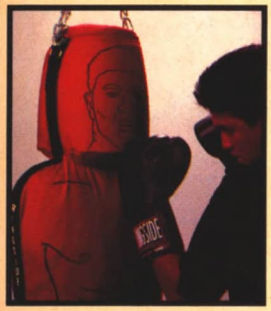
EXACT TARGET BAG

In the late 1920s the boxing "dummy" became popular. Like many champions of the day, **Jack Dempsey** assumed that the more realistic the target, the better the preparation. With human contouring and life-like features, these dummies made great sparring partners.





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The professional fight glove has undergone enormous changes since **Harry Greb** won the middleweight title in 1923. The importance of safety and comfort is as timeless as the ability to out-score and out-punch your opponent.

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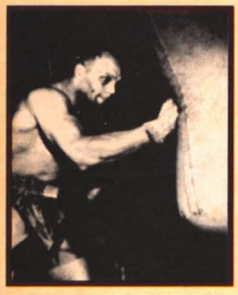

The basic hanging heavybag has long been a central piece of equipment for fighters of the past and present. Fighters of **Jersey Joe's** era could have only imagined a free-standing heavybag that could provide such an intense and flexible workout.

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